●近代麻雀コミックス●

福本伸行

FUKUMOTO NOBUYUKI

Kindai Mahjong Comics

10

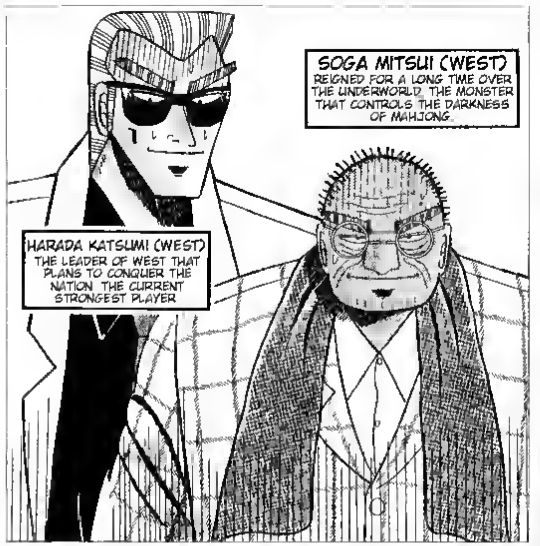
天

TEN

天和通りの快男児

THE NICE GUY ON THE PATH OF TENHOU

竹書房
TAKE SHOBO


SOGA MITSUI (WEST)
REIGNED FOR A LONG TIME OVER THE UNDERWORLD. THE MONSTER THAT CONTROLS THE DARKNESS OF MAHJONG.
HARADA KATSUMI (WEST)
THE LEADER OF WEST THAT PLANS TO CONQUER THE NATION. THE CURRENT STRONGEST PLAYER

THE SHOWDOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE

AFTER THE SHOWDOWN BEGAN. THE FLOW OF THE GAME CHANGED AGAIN AND AGAIN. NOBODY COULD SAY WHO HAD THE ADVANTAGE YET. SINCE THE GAME CONTINUED TO SWING ONE WAY THEN THE OTHER. BUT, EXCEPTING TEN, THE OTHER FOUR PLAYERS HAD FEW POINTS LEFT..... DOES THE GODDESS OF VICTORY SMILE UPON EAST OR WEST?

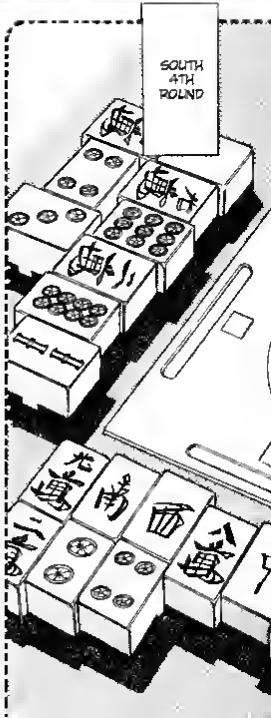
RULES: *MANGAN RESTRICTION *NO TIME LIMIT *LAW OF POINT DECREASE *TEN-TURN SHIFTS - THESE FOUR METHODS ARE THE SIGNIFICANT POINTS. IF SOMEONE GOES BELOW ZERO POINTS, THEY ARE FINISHED. THERE IS NO DOUBLE-RON. THE RIICHI COUNTER IS ONLY PUT OUT FOR THE SAKE OF CONVENIENCE, IT CANNOT BE LOST.

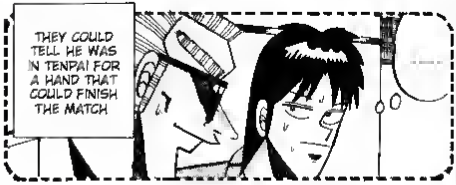
THE ULTIMATE BATTLE. WHO WILL FALL!?
IGAWA HIROYUKI (EAST)
GROWN A LOT IN THE EAST-WEST BATTLE. HE HAS A SUPERBLY DELICATE PLAYING STYLE
TEN TAKASHI (EAST)
THE GENERAL OF EAST. WELL-TRUSTED AND PROUD OF HIS STRENGTH IN THIS GAME OF VILLAINY.
AKAGI SHIGERU (EAST)
A GENIUS THAT ONLY APPEARS ONCE IN A HUNDRED YEARS. WITH COUNTLESS LEGENDS TOLD OF HIM.

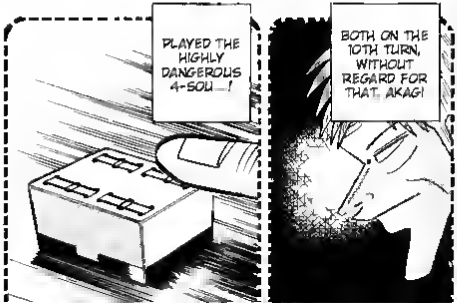
CHAPTER 84
BLASPHEMY

THE SHOWDOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE...
10TH HAN-CHAN

TAN-YAO, 3 DORA WOULD MAKE IT MANGAN
HARADA FROM WEST WAS QUICK TO PON ON THE 8-PIN

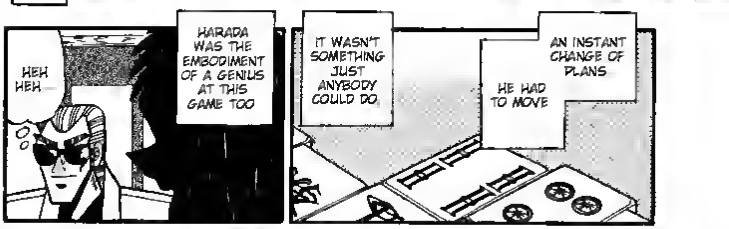

SOUTH 4TH ROUND


THEY COULD TELL HE WAS IN TENPAI FOR A HAND THAT COULD FINISH THE MATCH


PLAYED THE HIGHLY DANGEROUS 4-SOU...!
BOTH ON THE 10TH TURN, WITHOUT REGARD FOR THAT. AKAGI

IF HE DIDN'T GET THE URA-DORA, IT WOULDN'T REACH MANGAN.
INSTEAD OF LETTING HARADA WIN WITH A MANGAN HAND
INSTEAD HIROYUKI DECLARED RON
HE TRIED TO MAKE A MOVE BUT
HARADA RESPONDED TO THAT 4-SOU.
THAT WAS HOW IT WENT...
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE WON INSTEAD.
THIS IS WHERE HE OVERSHOT THE MARK.
BUT
AN ESCAPE ROUTE ATAMA-HANE BORN FROM NECESSITY
HARADA'S UNEXPECTED PERSISTENCE
OF COURSE, THIS PLOY WAS A SUBTLE TRAP.
HARADA WASN'T CALLING RON, HE WAS CALLING PON.
HIS HAND WAS IN A STATE WHERE HE COULD ONLY PON.
HARADA'S HAND DIDN'T ACTUALLY WIN, SINCE HE HAD NO YAKU WITH THIS 4-SOU.
CAME UP WITH A LAST-RESORT PLAN AT THE LAST MINUTE.

LOOKED EASY BUT
THIS PLAY
HIS BLADE OF WITS,
RIGHT AFTER THE 1-SOU HE WAS WAITING FOR VANISHED
TO COME UP WITH THIS WHEN THE 4-SOU CAME OUT
IS A GODLY SKILL.

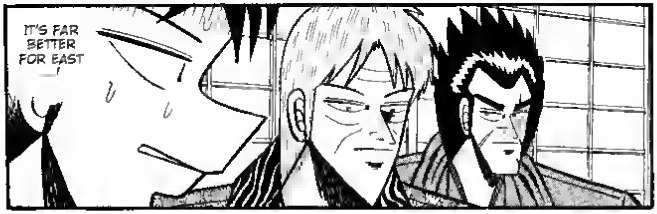

HEH HEH...
HARADA WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF A GENIUS AT THIS GAME TOO
IT WASN'T SOMETHING JUST ANYBODY COULD DO.
HE HAD TO MOVE
AN INSTANT CHANGE OF PLANS

I DON'T CARE WHO WINS.
IN FACT, THIS IS IDEAL...
I'M NOT GOING TO OBJECT TO THIS WIN.
THE POINT IS TO HAVE AKAGI GO BELOW ZERO.
THIS'LL DO—

IN THE REAL BATTLE AFTER THIS ONE WITH FOUR PEOPLE
IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TROUBLED ATMOSPHERE
EAST WON'T BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THEIR FULL POWER.
BUT IN THEIR HEARTS, THEY'LL BLAME HIROYUKI
NOBODY WILL SAY ANYTHING
BAD FEELINGS WILL REMAIN.
IF HIROYUKI BURIES AKAGI
YEAH, IT'S IDEAL
THIS WAY IS IDEAL...
YEAH...
SETTLE IT...!
GOOD... THIS WILL DO...
WITH THESE PLAYERS WEST WILL TRIUMPH...!
ARE SOGA AND MYSELF
THE ONES LEFT IN THE GAME
EVEN ONE URA-DORA MAKES IT MANGAN.
HIS HAND IS MENZEN, TAN-YAO, PIN-FU.
AKAGI WILL FALL BELOW ZERO IN AN INSTANT.
AND GRIEVING HIROYUKI.
GET THAT URA-DORA...!

I HAVE TO AVOID THAT, NO MATTER WHAT.
IF I GET THE URA-DORA, AKAGI WILL GO BELOW ZERO.
IF I GET THE URA-DORA, IT'S OVER.
I COULD DESTROY IT...!
BETTER YET...
SHIT...

YEAH
I WON'T FLIP OVER THE URA-DORA PROPERLY
AFTER THAT DIRTY TRICK OF MAKING A FALSE MOVE
DESTROYING THE WALL WOULD MAKE US EVEN
IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE URA-DORA IS
THAT WILL KEEP AKAGI FROM GOING BELOW ZERO
OF COURSE
BY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT, I MIGHT GO BELOW ZERO, BUT
THAT'S BETTER THAN AKAGI BEING GONE


IT'S FAR BETTER FOR EAST

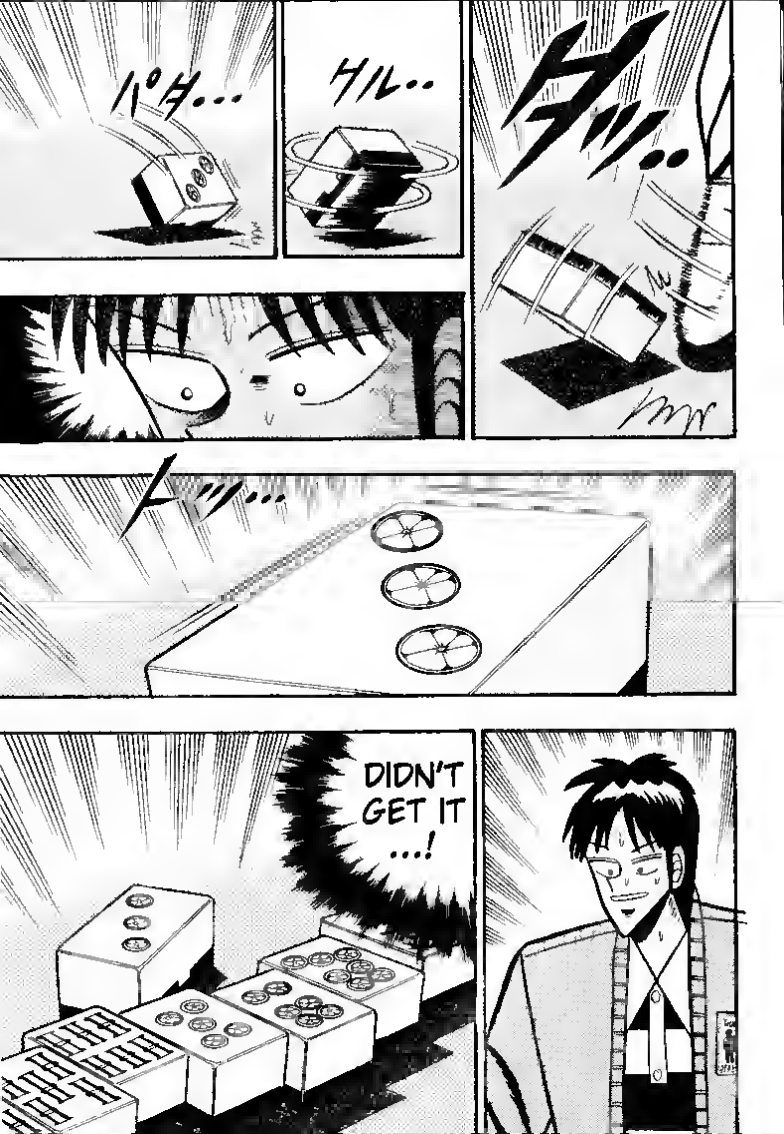
YEAH
I'LL WITHDRAW
THAT'S THE BEST CHOICE

WATER
ボソ!!

URGH ...!
AKAGI

...
AA
AWW
I'LL FLIP THEM OVER.
.....
NO...
WHAT'S WRONG .....?
WANT ME TO DO IT?
THE QUESTION IS THE ONES UNDERNEATH ...
THE TOP ONES ARE IRRELEVANT.

DIDN'T GET IT...!
ONE MORE...

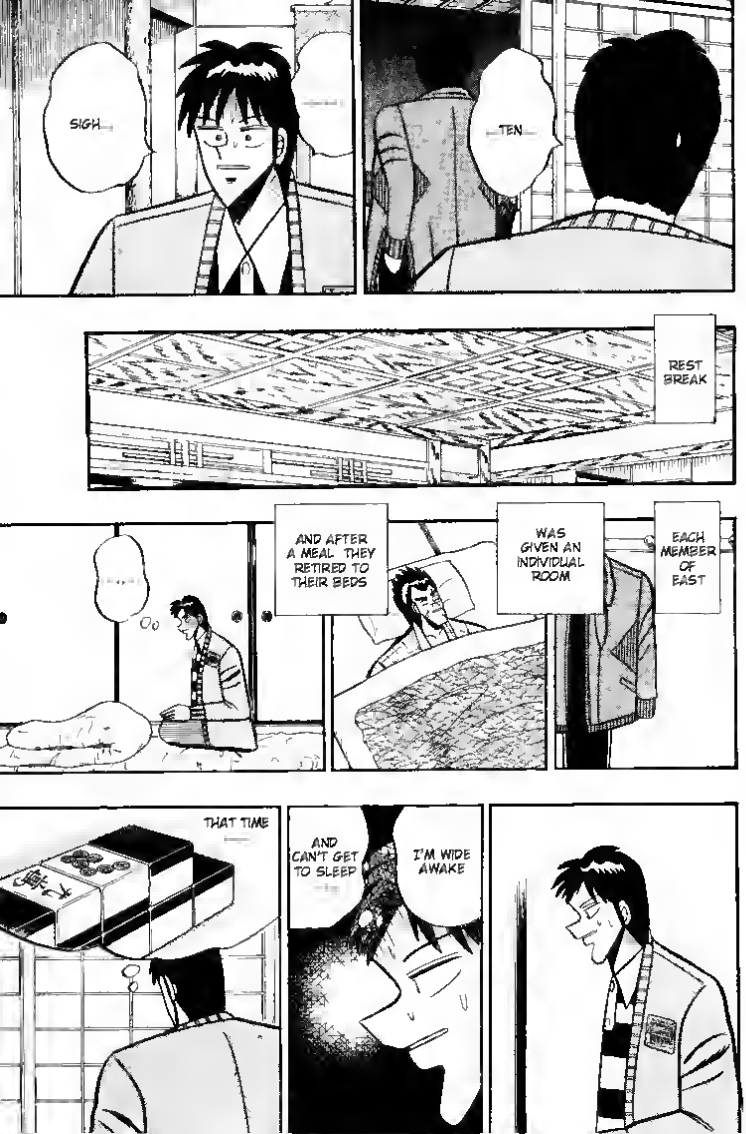

DIDN'T GET IT ...!

THIS HAND IS MENZEN TSUMO, TAN-YAO, PIN-FU, FOR 3900.....!
カラッ・・・
LOOK.
WE'VE BEEN IN HERE FOR A LONG TIME.
THE END OF THE HAN-CHAN IS A GOOD PLACE TO STOP
FOR A BREAK.
KH...!
わっ・・・!
AKAGI SURVIVED!
A GOOD END POINT
IT'S ALREADY GETTING LIGHT.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING.....?
HEY, HEY.
THERE'S ROOMS READY FOR YOU
REST UP UNTIL THEN
WE'LL RESUME AT 9PM TONIGHT!

HUH...?

HEH HEH...
どや...
ざわ...
ドカ...ドカ...

THE SUN'S RISING.
AND WE'RE OUT OF ENERGY.
GUESS IT'S TIME FOR A BREAK...
BUT... WELL...
IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR IT.
TO HAN-CHAN.
DOING THINGS HIS OWN WAY, AS USUAL


SIGH...
...TEN...
REST BREAK
EACH MEMBER OF EAST
WAS GIVEN AN INDIVIDUAL ROOM
AND AFTER A MEAL THEY RETIRED TO THEIR BEDS
THAT TIME
I'M WIDE AWAKE
AND CAN'T GET TO SLEEP

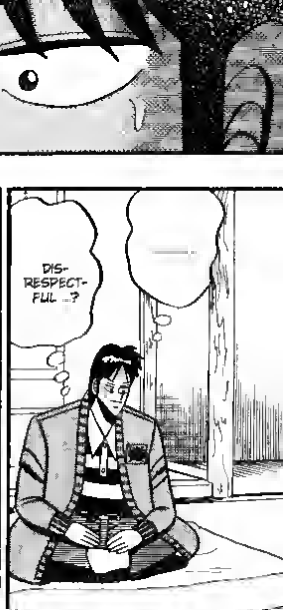
AND AKAGI SPOKE...
HE GUESSED WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO

WHEN I WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE URA-DORA WALL ON PURPOSE

HIRO...
DON'T BE DISRESPECTFUL.

...?

I DON'T REALLY.
WHAT DID HE MEAN?


DIS-RESPECT-FUL ...?

WAIT
DID AKAGI
I WONDER IF HE FELT IT WAS "BEING GIVEN TO HIM"
BY DESTROYING THE URA-DORA WALL
THAT I WAS GIVING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REAL BATTLE
TO AKAGI...
THAT'S CRAZY...!
THAT ISN'T WHAT I WAS MEANING TO DO...
I MEAN, AKAGI'S AT A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN ME
SO IN THIS CASE
THINKING RATIONALLY
ANYBODY WOULD THINK THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE AKAGI THERE THAN ME
THIS IS BAD
I HAVE TO CLEAR UP THIS MISUNDERSTANDING
AKAGI'S ROOM HAS TO BE AROUND HERE...

AKAGI .....!
OH...
WHAT'S UP, HIRO...?
CAN'T SLEEP?
I'M HAVING A DRINK.
...AH, WELL...
HA HA HA...
RIGHT BACK AT YOU, AKAGI
...
THERE'S FUGU-CHIRI ON ITS WAY, TOO
I HAD IT MADE FOR ME.
AND THIS IS...?

HEH HEH...
HAVING THINGS YOUR OWN WAY AS USUAL, AREN'T YOU.
WANT A DRINK...?
YOU MUST BE HERE ABOUT SOMETHING...
HUH?
SO... WHAT IS IT?
NO, I..
I ENDED UP CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR YOU, AKAGI
WHEN I TRIPPED UP A LITTLE WHILE AGO
HUH...?
UM...
YES
AH...
WELL
NH...?
ACTUALLY THERE'S ONE MORE THING...
AND, UH
WHEN YOU'RE IN A MATCH
LOTS OF THINGS HAPPEN
WHAT... THAT THING?
OH...
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT

AKAGI, YOU...
WHEN I WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE URA-DORA WALL A WHILE AGO
MIS-UNDER-STANDING ?
I THOUGHT I SHOULD CLEAR UP THAT MISUNDER-STANDING.
I WASN'T TAKING YOU LIGHTLY AT ALL.
THAT'S THE MIS-UNDER-STANDING !
I DID.
SAID "DON'T BE DISRESPECTFUL "
I WASN'T MEANING TO ME...
WHEN I SAID "DON'T BE DISRESPECT-FUL"
HIRO...
I WASN'T MEANING THAT I WAS GIVING IT TO...
ALL MY MISTAKE.
FROM THE START, THE WAY IT TURNED OUT WAS
SO OF COURSE I WANTED TO PREVENT IT.

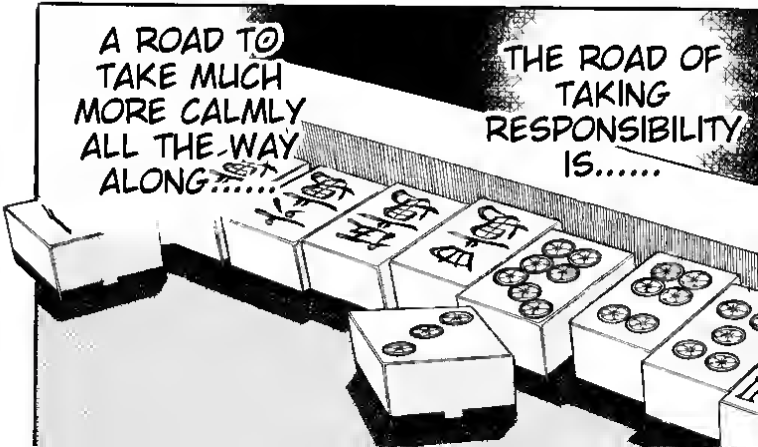
I'M SAYING IT'S RUDE.
I MEANT TO THIS MATCH
THAT WE'VE BEEN COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO

AT LEAST YOU DECLARED RON AND PUT DOWN YOUR HAND.
EVEN THOUGH WEST SET UP A DIRTY TRICK WITH THAT FALSE MOVE.....
YEAH...
...THE MATCH...?

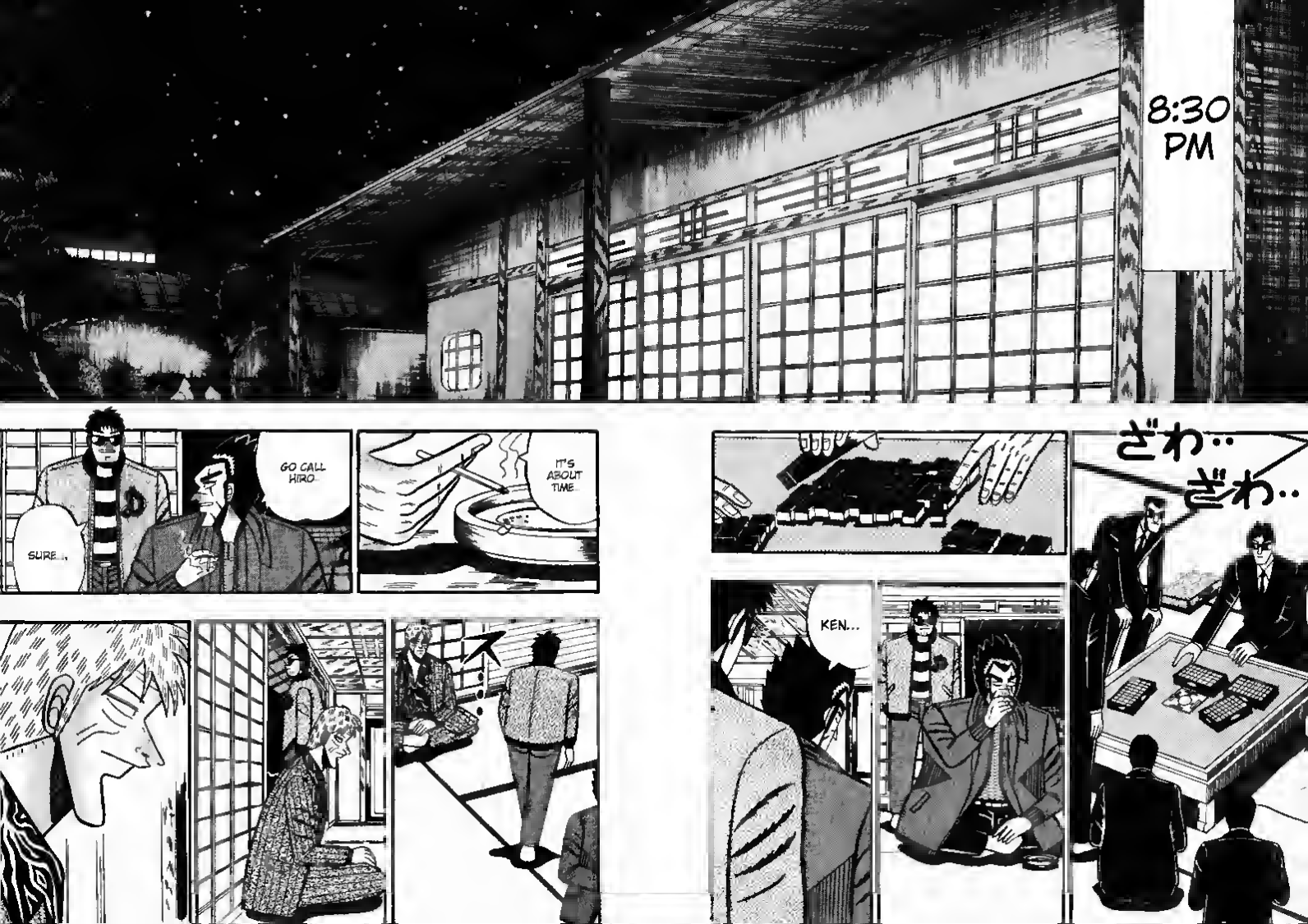
THE RESULT OF AN ACTION THAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED
SOMETHING THAT WOULD NULLIFY THAT RESULT
A DENIAL OF THIS GAME
THAT WE'VE CONTINUED TO WORK HARD AT SO FAR.
CAN'T BE DENIED
IN SHORT
DESTROYING THE URA-DORA WALL TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THE URA-DORA IS
IT'S BLASPHEMY ...!
URGH..
HEH HEH
EVERYONE DID A GOOD JOB

IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE THAT WOULD LET ANY KIND OF ILLEGAL MOVE GO THROUGH
LIKE TRYING TO BE A HERO BY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT
EVEN IF SOMEONE OFFERED THEMSELF UP
IF IT WAS IN EXCHANGE FOR THEMSELF
BY THAT TILE-SWITCH
CORNERED AT THE LAST MINUTE

THE ROAD TO TAKING RESPONSIBILITY ISN'T BY DOING SOMETHING LIKE KILLING YOURSELF
QUITE THE MISTAKE


A ROAD TO TAKE MUCH MORE CALMLY ALL THE WAY ALONG.....
THE ROAD OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IS.....

天
CHAPTER #5
INSURANCE

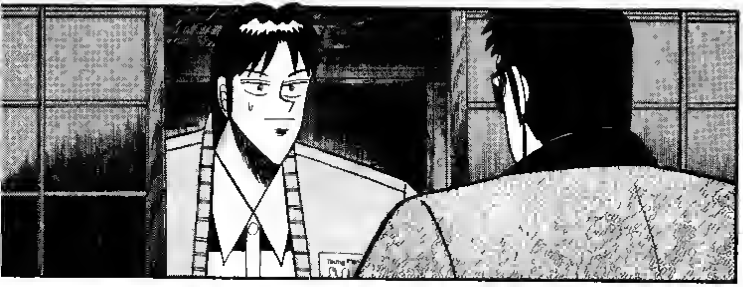

8:30 PM
GO CALL HIRO...
SURE...
IT'S ABOUT TIME...
KEN...
ざわ..
ざわ..

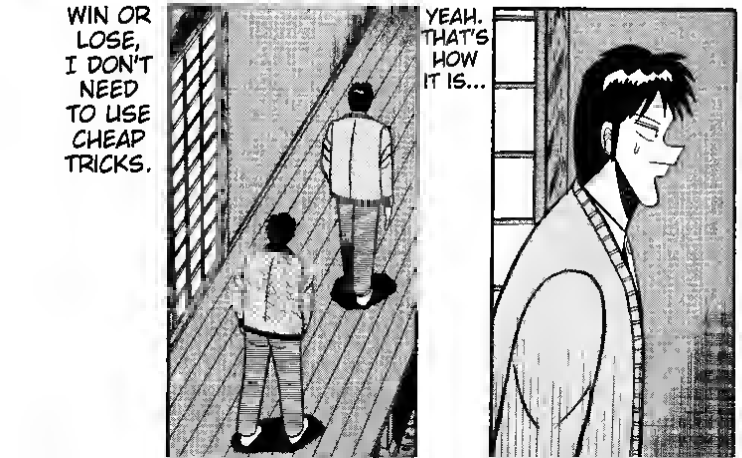
CAMP

ME FROM DROPPING BELOW ZERO IS
IN ORDER TO KEEP
BY DESTROYING THE WALL
HAVING EVERY-THING GO UP IN SMOKE
IT'S BLASPHEMY
OF THE GAME WE'VE KEPT ON PLAYING
DENIAL
THE ROAD TO TAKING RESPONSIBILITY ISN'T BY DOING SOMETHING LIKE KILLING YOURSELF!
IT'S A MISTAKE...
.....
.....
THE ROAD TO TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IS

A MUCH MORE QUIET ROAD
TO TAKE ALL THE WAY ALONG.

RIGHT..
IT'S TIME .....
HIRO...




WIN OR LOSE, I DON'T NEED TO USE CHEAP TRICKS.
YEAH. THAT'S HOW IT IS...

ざわ
ざわ・・
SHOW-DOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE ...!
JUST PLAY MY PROPER GAME OF MAHJONG.
I DON'T NEED TO PLAY ANY SPECIAL WAY.
WHATEVER THE SITUATION IS
BUT
RIGHT AFTER STARTING UP THE MATCH AGAIN, WE'RE AT THE CLIMAX
IS PROBABLY RIGHT...
WHAT AKAGI SAID
STILL UNDER THE SUDDEN DEATH SITUATION.
THE MATCH STARTS UP AGAIN
IT WILL DETERMINE WHO CARRIES ON TO THE FINAL BATTLE
WHEN SOMEONE WINS AND SOMEONE FALLS BELOW ZERO
HAVE LESS THAN 2000 POINTS REMAINING
SINCE THE FIVE PEOPLE PLAYING OTHER THAN TEN

IT'D BE RIDICULOUS TO GIVE UP ON THE GAME ITSELF...
RATHER
I CAN'T GIVE UP ON MY GAME...
NO MATTER WHAT COMES MY WAY

IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION TO LOSE
BUT EVEN AFTER SAYING THAT KIND OF THING
SOMEHOW OR OTHER
THAT MAY BE WHAT AKAGI WAS TRYING TO SAY
DOING ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT WOULD BE FRAUD.
RESOLVE TO GO AT IT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT, WITHOUT GIVING UP ON MY GAME OR MYSELF.

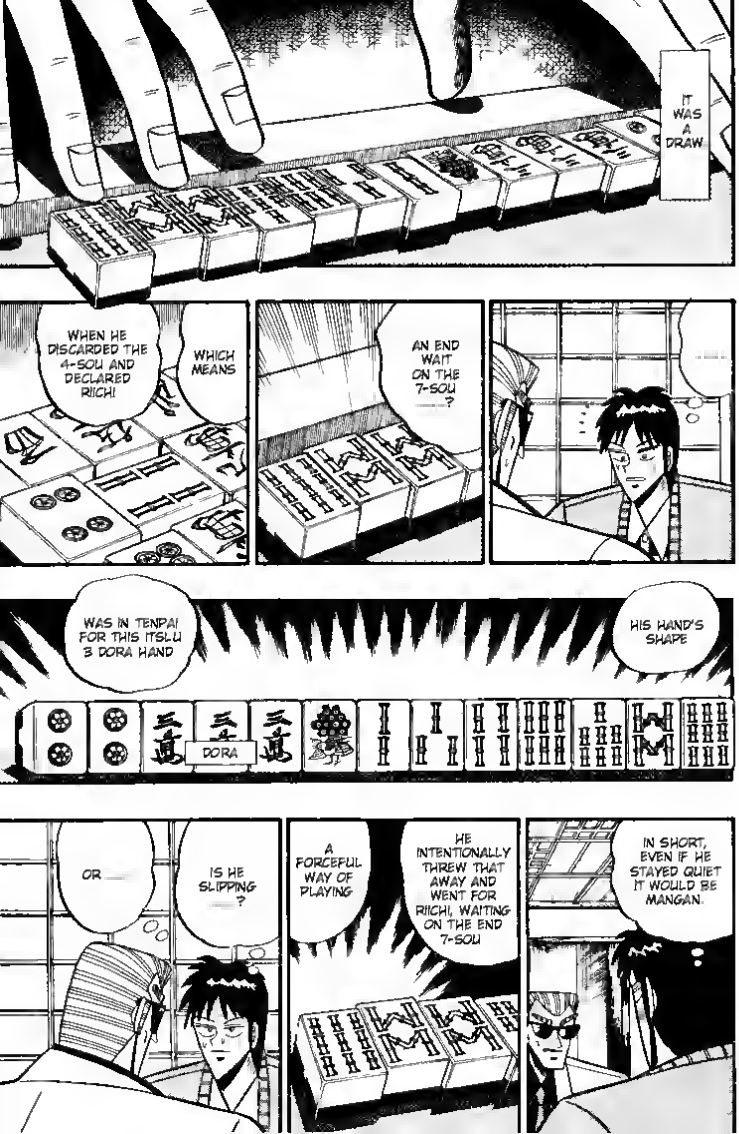
PROB-ABLY
THE MEANING BEHIND THAT WORD IS
THE WORD AKAGI USED ISN'T REALLY LIKE HIM.
THAT WORD "ROAD."
AND WHAT I FINALLY ARRIVED AT WAS
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT THROUGH THE REST OF THE BREAK
TO BE CONTINUED...
IF I LOSE, THEN ON TO THE NEXT...
IF I LOSE IN THE NEXT ONE, THE ONE AFTER THAT...

DOWN A QUIET, PROPER ROAD, WITHOUT ANY SCHEMES .....!
UNTIL I WIN ...!
RIICHI...!
IF HE'S CALLING RIICHI NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE FINAL ROUND
FIRST OFF, IT'S A MANGAN HAND...
HERE WE GO ...!
URGH...

IF I DEAL IN, IT'S ALL OVER

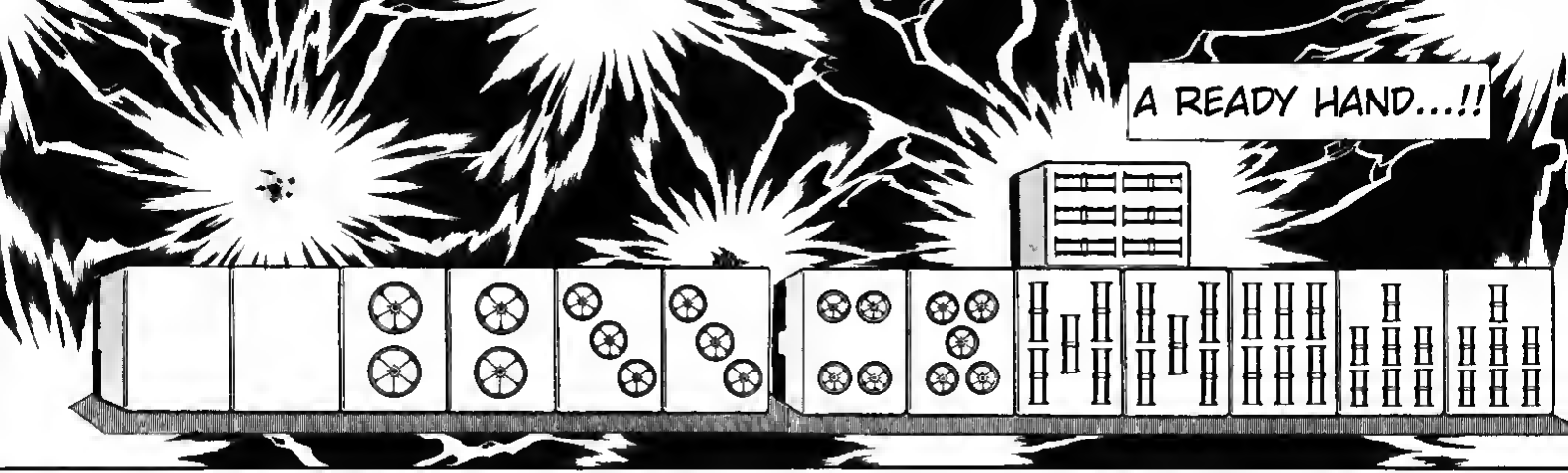
OPENING ROUND EARLY IN THE EAST 1ST ROUND
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH
WITH THIS HAND
MAKING A QUICK HAND IS MY PRIORITY BUT
EVEN IF HE GETS TSUMO, IT'S ALL OVER.

CH'
IN THE END, WITHOUT TSUMO
HARADA'S ENGINE HADN'T STARTED UP IN THE EAST 1ST ROUND EITHER.
BUT
IT WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE SITUATION RIGHT AFTER RESUMING THE SHOWDOWN
EAST WAS IN A PINCH


IT WAS A DRAW.
WHEN HE DISCARDED THE 4-SOU AND DECLARED RIICHI
WHICH MEANS
AN END WAIT ON THE 7-SOU——?
WAS IN TENPAI FOR THIS ITSU-3 DORA HAND
DORA
HIS HAND'S SHAPE
OR——
IS HE SLIPPING——?
A FORCEFUL WAY OF PLAYING
HE INTENTIONALLY THREW THAT AWAY AND WENT FOR RIICHI, WAITING ON THE END 7-SOU
IN SHORT, EVEN IF HE STAYED QUIET IT WOULD BE MANGAN.

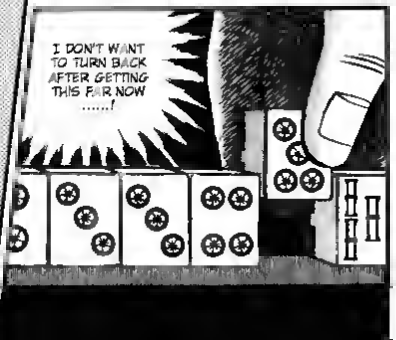
WITH THE 5-SOU GONE
EVEN IF WE COULD STICK SOMETHING NEXT TO THE 4-SOU OR 6-SOU TO GO FOR A DOUBLE-SIDED WAIT
IF WE AIMED FOR ITSUU BY KEEPING THE 4-SOU AND 6-SOU
WAS SOGA HOLDING THREE OF THE 5-SOU...?
IT'D BE THE SAME AS A CLOSED OR END WAIT...
EVEN IF IT BECAME A DOUBLE-SIDED WAIT
THAT CRUCIAL WAIT ON THE 5-SOU WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION
WE'LL BE THE NEXT ONES TO ATTACK...!
WELL... IF THAT'S HOW THEY'RE PLAYING IT
HEH HEH...
WEST LOST THEIR CHANCE
EITHER WAY

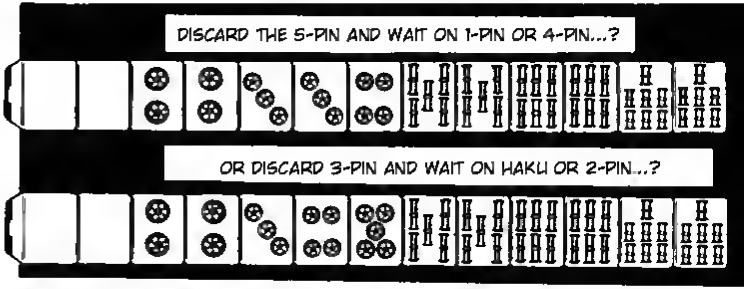
THE WINDS CHANGED
AND THEN
EAST 3RD ROUND
EAST GOT A GOOD HAND FOR THE MATCH THIS TIME
JUST AS HIROYUKI HAS HOPED FOR
LET THIS BE THE HAND ...!
COME ON...!

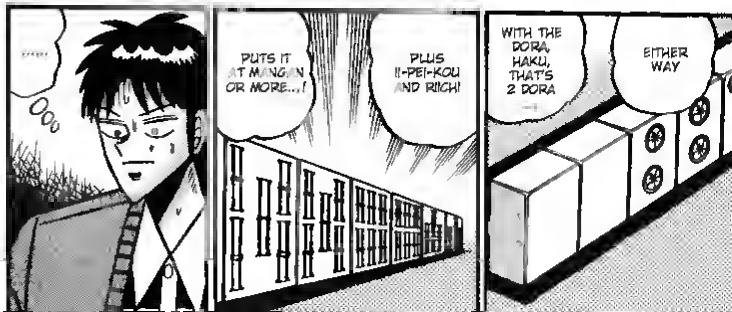

A READY HAND...!!

RIICHI ...!

STRAIGHT AHEAD
GO FOR IT WITHOUT WAITING TO SEE HOW THINGS SHAPE UP


I DON'T WANT TO TURN BACK AFTER GETTING THIS FAR NOW .....!


DISCARD THE 5-PIN AND WAIT ON 1-PIN OR 4-PIN...?
OR DISCARD 3-PIN AND WAIT ON HAKU OR 2-PIN...?

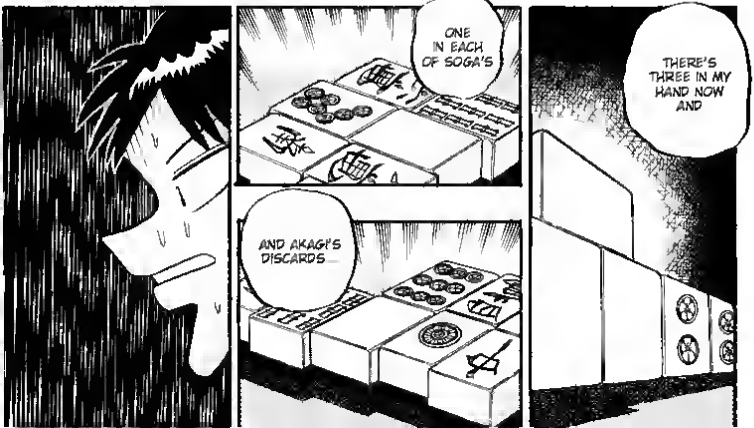

PUTS IT AT MANGAN OR MORE...!
PLUS !!-PEI-KOU AND RIICH!
WITH THE DORA, HAKU, THAT'S 2 DORA
EITHER WAY

.....
チャラ
KH...
.....
NATURALLY WEST WON'T PLAY INTO IT.
AGAINST AN OBVIOUS 1-4-PIN WAIT LIKE THIS ONE
HEH HEH...
I'LL DRAW IT...
I WASN'T EXPECTING IT TO HAPPEN FROM THE START.
BUT FOR A HAND LIKE THIS IT DOESN'T MATTER.

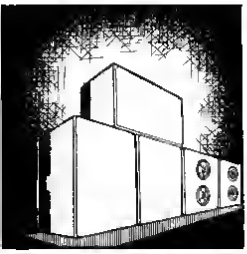
GNH...!
DRAW IT ...!

IT BACKFIRED ON ME, I GOT THE HAKU...!
CRAP...!
I WOULD HAVE WON...!
IF IT WAS A DOUBLE PAIR WAIT ON HAKU AND 2-PIN
KH...
TOO BAD ABOUT THIS
IT'S
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
NO
HUH...?

THAT'S CRAZY .....!?

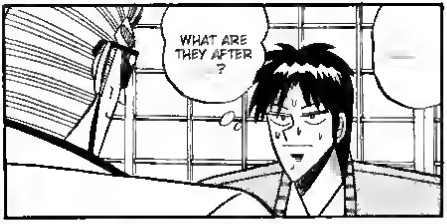

ONE IN EACH OF SOGA'S
AND AKAGI'S DISCARDS
THERE'S THREE IN MY HAND NOW AND

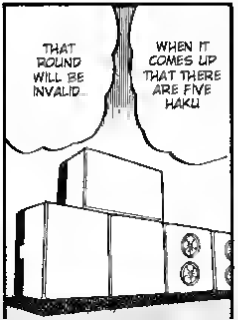
THERE'S FIVE HAKU .....!



WEST PUT FIVE HAKU THERE FROM THE START!

IT'S WEST...!





YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...!
THIS KIND OF THING WON'T BE ACCEPTED.
WEST ARE THE ONES THAT GOT THE TILES READY.
IT'LL BE 100% CERTAIN THEY WERE BEHIND IT.
IF DECLARED INVALID ON OUR SIDE
FROM WEST, AT A TIME WHEN THEY'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE.....
SUDDENLY CALLING IT INVALID
THERE'S NO WAY THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTED.....!

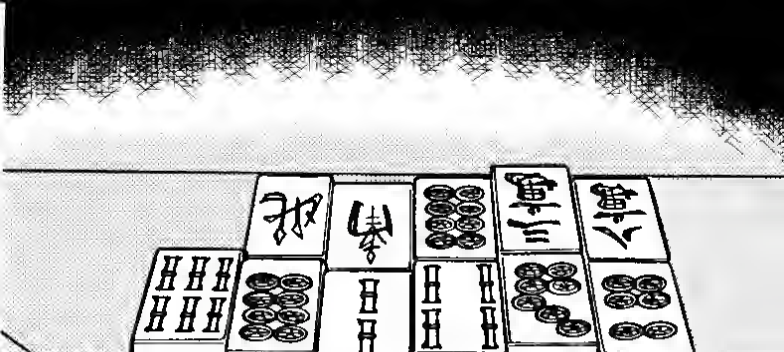
KEEP GOING...!

I'M NOT GOING TO ABANDON MY SUPERIOR POSITION...!
THIS HAND WILL WIN...!
HEH HEH HEH...

CHAPTER 86
EXCEPTION
Young Men's Contemporary
CAMPUS
Sports Wear / Party Wear

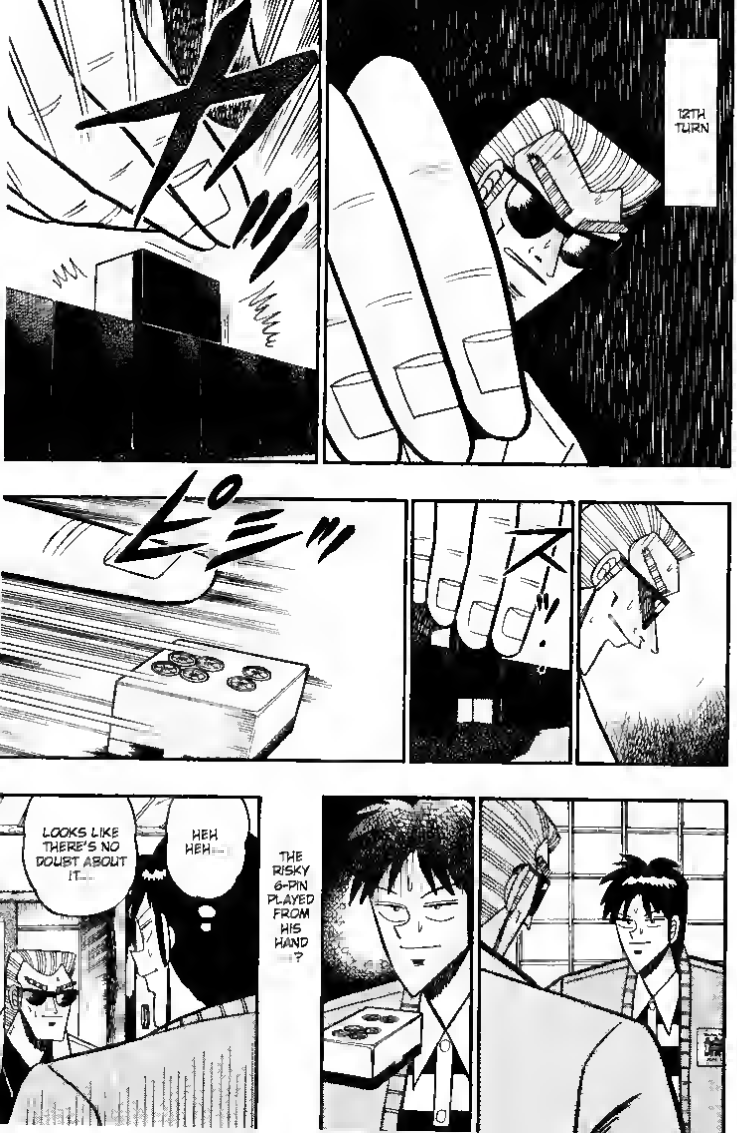
ざわ
ざわ・・・
RICHI, II-PEI-KOU, 2 DORA!
I JUST HAVE TO DRAW THIS 1-PIN OR 4-PIN.
Ahhh
WIN
IF I DRAW IT, I WIN!!
MANGAN OR MORE...!
IS A TRAP SET BY WEST
EVEN IF THIS
IT DOESN'T MATTER
THE 5TH HAKU ...!

BUT...
IS SOMETHING I CAN UNDERSTAND
AROUND MY RICHI
PLAYING CAREFULLY
NAN AND PEI ...?
PULLING OUT OF HIS HAND
WAIT
.....
HAVING NAN AND PEI FLOATING AROUND IN HIS HAND NEAR THE END...
THAT ITSELF IS UNNATURAL ...
NH...?
CH'...!



MAYBE THAT BASTARD HARADA IS AFTER

OH REALLY


12TH TURN
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
HEH HEH...
THE RISKY 6-PIN PLAYED FROM HIS HAND...?

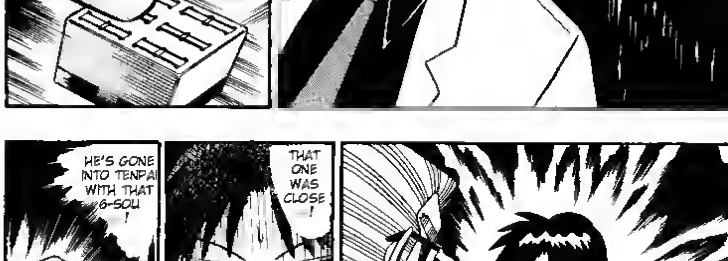
HE BROUGHT OUT NAN AND PEI FROM HIS HAND...
BECAUSE MID-GAME
HE'S AIMING FOR KOKUSHI!

IF HE WAS, IT WOULDN'T BE TO HIS ADVANTAGE TO DEAL THE 6-PIN.
HE'S NOT FINISHED YET.
NOW HIS HAND IS TAKING SHAPE.
BUT
A STOCK OF SAFE TILES.
HE HAD PAIRS OF NAN AND PEI

GO AHEAD AND GET INTO TENPAI...
THAT'S FUNNY...
HEH HEH...
RYAN-SHAN-TEN OR II-SHAN-TEN ——?
HIS HAND IS ADVANCING.

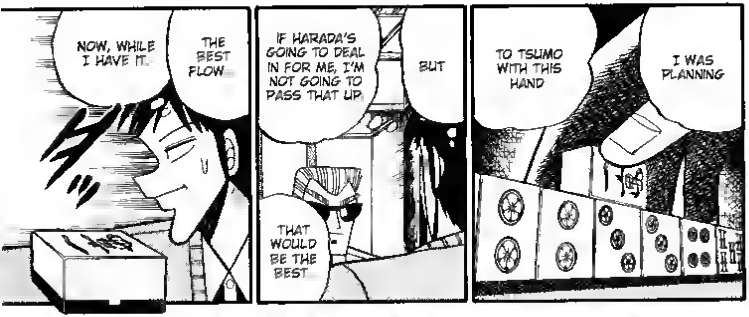
HE'LL NEVER BENEFIT FROM IT.
ON THIS HAKU WAIT THAT WILL NEVER COME
IT'LL BE
WHEN HE'S READY
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
HE CAN ONLY SEE THREE ON THE TABLE
BUT IN HIS EYES
EVEN SEEING FIVE, THERE'S NO CHANCE LEFT FOR HIM
WHEN THERE ARE FOUR HAKU
AND IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S ALSO INEVITABLE
EVEN IF HE THINKS THERE'S TWO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S NOT STRANGE TO THINK THAT THERE'S TWO IN THE WALL.
AN INCREASING PROBABILITY
THAT HE'LL DEAL INTO MY 1-PIN OR 4-PIN WAIT

ピシ!!!


HE'S GONE INTO TENPAI WITH THAT 6-SOU!
THAT ONE WAS CLOSE!

HE'S NOT THINKING OF FOLDING NOW.
IF HE GRABS IT, IT'LL COME OUT!
MY 1-PIN OR 4-PIN WAIT WILL TOO...
IF THAT 6-SOU IS COMING OUT
GOOD...
A LITTLE MORE...

HOW CONVENIENT.
HEH HEH HEH...
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF THAT.
HE WAS PROBABLY IN TENPAI WHEN THAT 6-SOU CAME OUT...
HE'S GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD.
Ooo.


NOW, WHILE I HAVE IT.
THE BEST FLOW...
IF HARADA'S GOING TO DEAL IN FOR ME, I'M NOT GOING TO PASS THAT UP.
BUT
THAT WOULD BE THE BEST.
TO TSUMO WITH THIS HAND
I WAS PLANNING

IRONICALLY, THAT POISON.....
A POISON HE MIXED IN.
WAS PUT OUT THERE TO BENEFIT HARADA...
FROM THE START, THIS HAKU
LEFT ME WITH A GOOD SHAPE OF HAND.
THE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THIS 5TH HAKU

AT THIS VERY MOMENT ...!
IS RUNNING THROUGH HARADA'S OWN VEINS

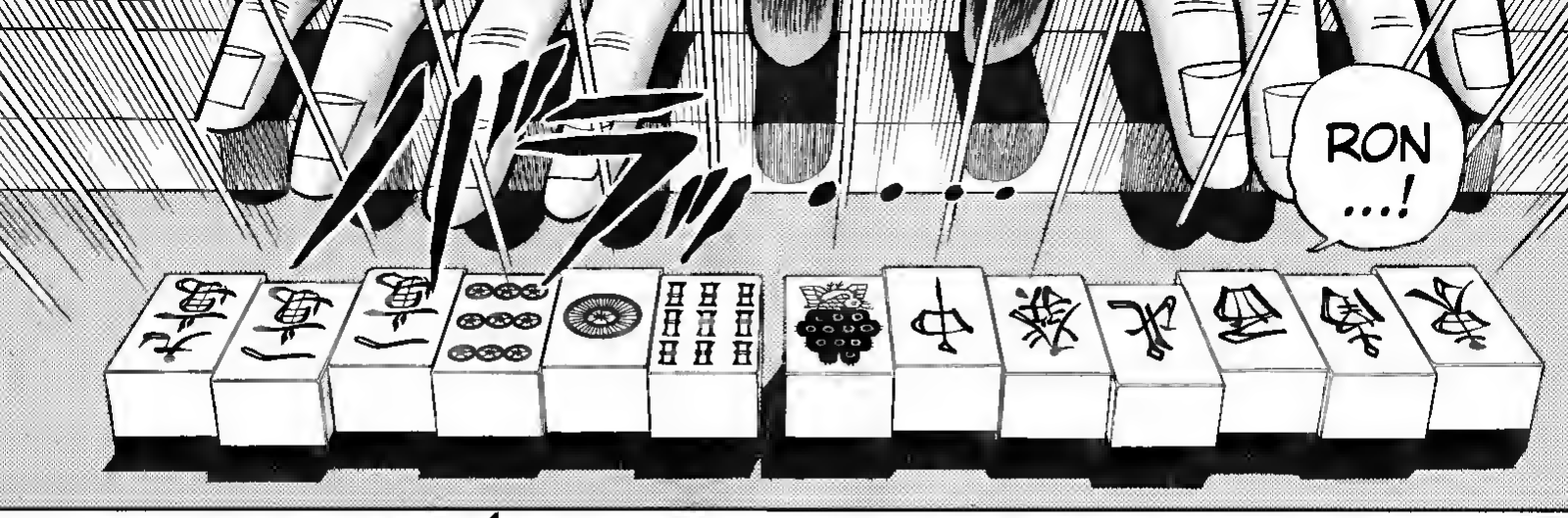
DEAL IN...!
DEAL IN...!
ピシッ!!..

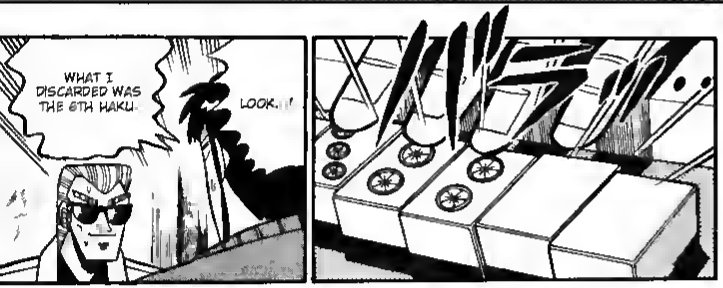
IF I CAN
I'D RATHER NOT TSUMO
CH'
HUH ?
IF I DRAW IT I'LL HA-
AND WAIT FOR HARADA TO DEAL IN, BUT
GNH
THAT'S CRAZY ...!

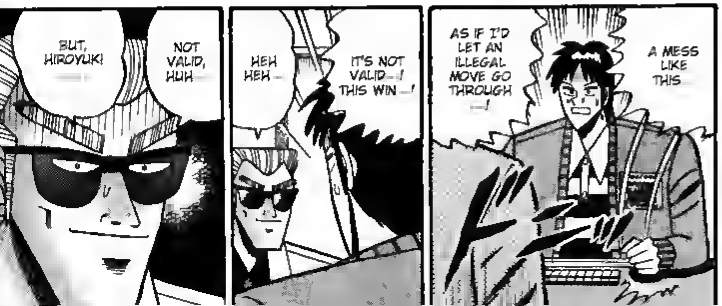
HAKU ...!
STOP FUCKING AROUND ...!
KH...
A 6TH HAKU ...!
YOU'RE MAKING US ALL WAIT FOR YOU HERE...
HURRY UP AND GET RID OF IT...
IF IT DOESN'T FINISH YOUR HAND
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
HEH HEH HEH...
GIVE ME A BREAK, YOU DAMN CHEATER ...!

I WON'T ACCEPT THIS KIND OF A GAME...!
EVEN IF I DEAL IN
KH

THE LAST HAKU, HUH...
HEH HEH ...
ユラ...
I'LL TAKE IT...!


RON ...!


WHAT I DISCARDED WAS THE 6TH HAKU.
LOOK...!


BUT, HIROYUKI
NOT VALID, HUH
HEH HEH
IT'S NOT VALID...! THIS WIN...!
AS IF I'D LET AN ILLEGAL MOVE GO THROUGH...!
A MESS LIKE THIS

KH...!

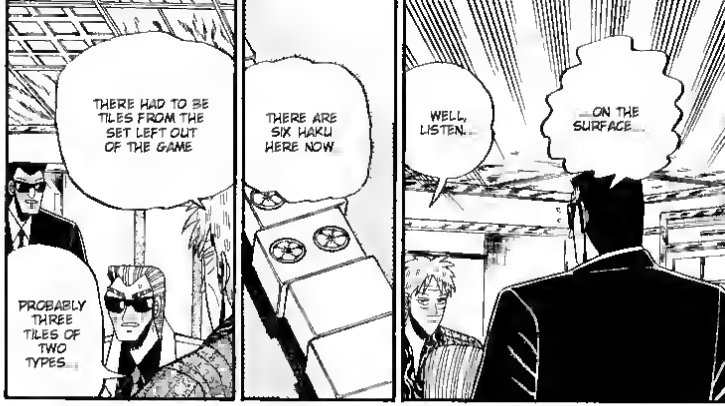
I'M NOT GOING TO ACCEPT A GAME LIKE THIS
THE GAME IS OVER
WITH THIS
STOP SCREWING AROUND

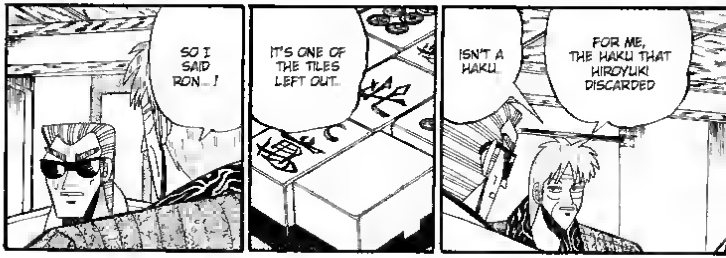
KOKUSHI MUSOU ...!

THE ONE YOU DREW RIGHT AFTER RICHI
IF YOU'RE HOLDING TWO HAKU
HUH...?
DIDN'T YOU ALREADY ACCEPT THAT ILLEGAL MOVE...?
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS WRONG IN THE GAME...
AT THAT TIME, YOU
WAS THE 5TH ONE...
URGH...
WHY DIDN'T YOU REVEAL YOUR HAND BACK THEN
AND COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT ODDITY AT THE TIME...?
IF YOU'RE GONNA KICK UP A FUSS ABOUT IT BEING ILLEGAL
YOU STAND UP AND START CRYING ABOUT HOW IT'S ALL ILLEGAL
THAT'S NOT GOING TO PASS WITH PLAYERS LIKE US.
WHEN IT'S NOT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE
YOU'LL ACCEPT ILLEGAL MOVES, TOO.
WHEN YOU'RE IN RIICHI AND IT'S TO YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE
HEH HEH...

SURE THAT'S RIGHT
ISN'T THAT RIGHT...?
AKAGI...?
HUH...?
DESPITE THAT, I'M QUITE SURE YOU DIDN'T WIN...
BUT, HARADA
AKAGI
YOU'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT MY EXCEPTION TO THE RULES, TOO.
IF THAT EXCEPTION WILL PASS,
AND THIS GAME IS AN EXCEPTION
IF YOU ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE SIX HAKU
バラ
HEH HEH...
EXCEPTION...?

ざわ..
ざわ..
HUH..?
ATAMA-HANE...
RON...!
?
ATAMA-HANE...?
HUH...?
...ON THE SURFACE ...
HIROYUKI DISCARDED A HAKU JUST NOW
AND HIS WAIT IS ON 2-SOU, 5-SOU, OR 5-PIN, ISN'T IT?
WHAT KIND OF CRAZY THING IS HE SAYING .....?
WH...
IT'S A MESS.


THERE HAD TO BE TILES FROM THE SET LEFT OUT OF THE GAME
PROBABLY THREE TILES OF TWO TYPES...
THERE ARE SIX HAKU HERE NOW
WELL, LISTEN...
...ON THE SURFACE...


SO I SAID RON...!
IT'S ONE OF THE TILES LEFT OUT.
ISN'T A HAKU.
FOR ME, THE HAKU THAT HIROYUKI DISCARDED

THIS TILE IS THE 5-SOU...!
TILES LEFT OUT...?
YEAH...
ざわ...

IN THAT MAHJONG BOX
IF YOU TURN OVER THE EXTRA TILES
ざわ ざわ..
HMPH...!
NATURALLY, HIROYUKI WILL SURVIVE
AND YOU'LL ACCEPT MY ATAMA-HANE
BECAUSE IT'S ONLY TAN-YAO
THERE'S A 5-SOU
WE'LL SOON KNOW IF
AMONG THE FEW TILES LEFT OUT
IF YOU ARE, I'LL AGREE...!
CHOMBO PENALTY WILL TAKE YOU BELOW ZERO.
IT'S A MISTAKEN RON.
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT...?
IF WE EMPTY THE BOX
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ...?
AND THE 5-SOU ISN'T THERE

FINE BY ME ...!

.....
AKAGI
.....
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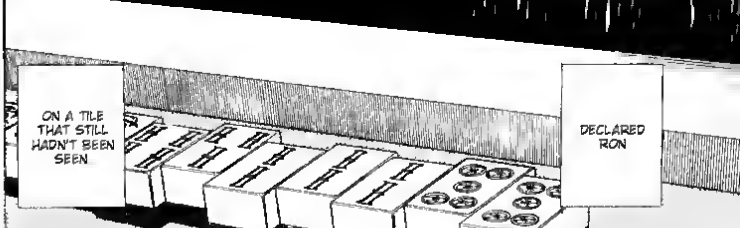
CHAPTER 87
MAGNETIC FORCE

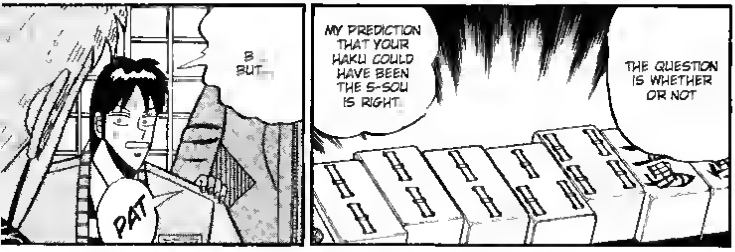
ざわ・
ざわ・
THE POISON THAT HARADA PLANTED
THE SIX HAKU
THAT POISON WENT AROUND AND AROUND
STRIKING HIROYUKI IN THE END
BUT
AND ENDED UP DEALING INTO HARADA'S KOKUSHI.
HIROYUKI DREW THE SIXTH HAKU
AFTER RIICHI
HIROYUKI'S DISCARDED HAKU
SINCE THERE WERE SIX HAKU
AND A FEW TILES HAD BEEN LEFT OUT
AKAGI HAD DECLARED RON ON WHAT WOULD BE THE 5-SOU
AN ATAMA-HANE EXCEPTION.
IN SHORT, AKAGI—
AKAGI CALLED ATAME-HANE ON THAT HAKU
THERE WERE STILL TROUBLED WATERS AHEAD
AND— EVEN HAVING SAID THAT, HIS WAIT WASN'T ON HAKU
IT WAS ON 2-SOU 5-SOU OR 5-PIN


ON A TILE THAT STILL HADN'T BEEN SEEN
DECLARED RON

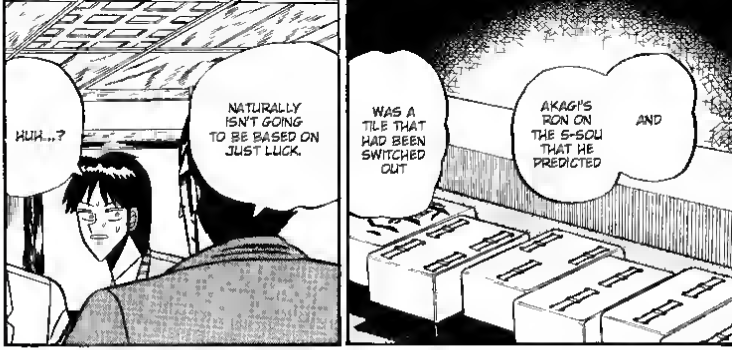
AKAGI
A DANGEROUS WAGER.
IF HE WAS WRONG, THE CHOMBO PENALTY WOULD TAKE HIM BELOW ZERO

PLEASE, I'M THE ONE WHO DEALT INTO HARADA'S HAND AND...
HIRO...
WOULD HAVE BEEN SWITCHED WITH HAKU BY WEST.
ONLY TWO TYPES OF TILE OUT OF THE 34 TOTAL
DECIDING ON THE 5-SOU ISN'T A GAMBLE YOU'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING.
IT WAS MY MISTAKE FROM THE START.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO CROSS A DANGEROUS BRIDGE LIKE THAT, AKAGI.
IF ANYONE SHOULD LEAVE, IT SHOULD BE ME.
PLEASE, STOP THIS!!

NOW
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.
AFTER THE SITUATION HAS ALREADY GONE THAT FAR
I WON BY RON
HUH...?
TOO MUCH HAS ALREADY PASSED NOW.


B-BUT...
PAT
MY PREDICTION THAT YOUR HAKU COULD HAVE BEEN THE 5-SOU IS RIGHT.
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT

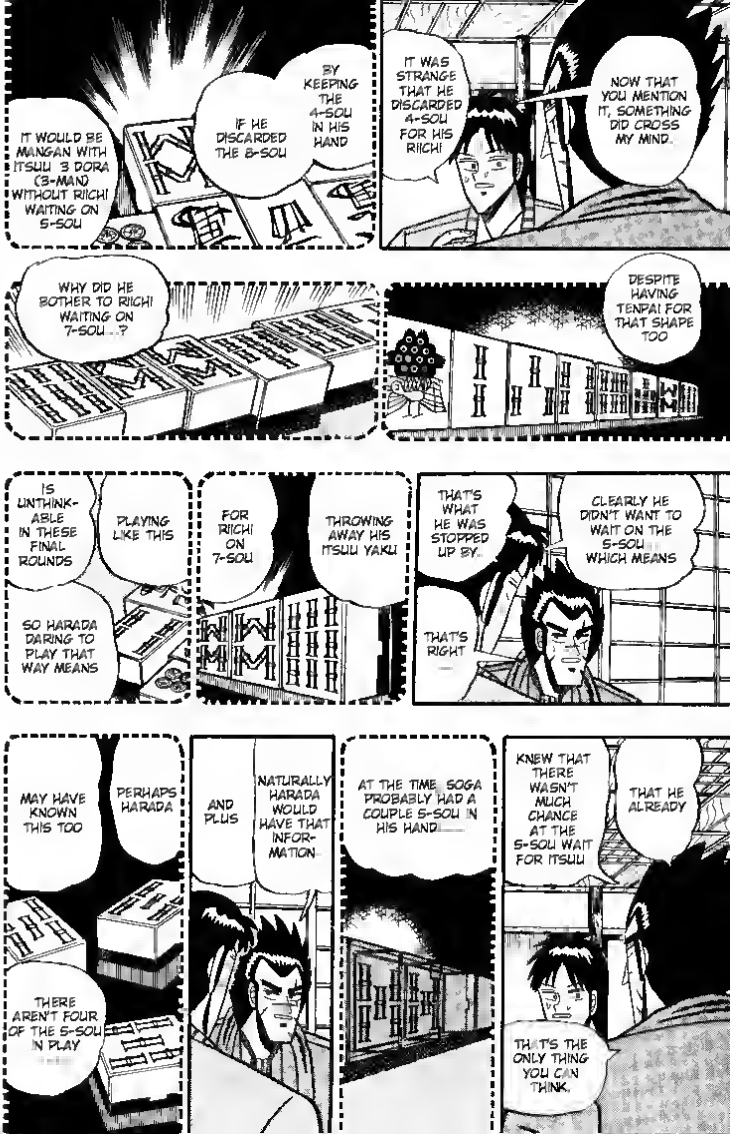
HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE IT BACK.
AKAGI'S SAID WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY.
IT'S HOPELESS.
LET'S JUST WATCH!
TEN...


HUH...?
NATURALLY ISN'T GOING TO BE BASED ON JUST LUCK.
WAS A TILE THAT HAD BEEN SWITCHED OUT
AKAGI'S RON ON THE 5-SOU THAT HE PREDICTED
AND

?...
ONE THAT HAD A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE OF BEING RIGHT
HE MADE A PREDICTION

HARADA'S HAND
IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND, I'M SURE HE...
HARADA'S HAND IN THE EAST 1ST ROUND ...
DO YOU REMEMBER ...? IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND...
YEAH...
PREDICTION ?

HE ONLY GOT AS FAR AS TENPAI AND THE GAME WAS A DRAW
BUT IN THE END, WITHOUT DRAWING IT...
AND WENT INTO RIICHI.
DISCARDED 4-SOU ON THE 11TH TURN
WAS MANGAN WITH THREE DORA, THE 3-MAN
THE HAND HE SHOWED AFTER THAT DRAW
FROM LOOKING AT THAT HAND
SO...
AS USUAL, YOU'VE GOT A GOOD MEMORY.
—THAT'S RIGHT.
AN END WAIT ON THE 7-SOU
OH...
SOME-THING WRONG ABOUT IT...?
HUH...?
DIDN'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING ABOUT IT? LIKE SOMETHING WAS WRONG ABOUT IT...


IT WOULD BE MANGAN WITH ITSUU 3 DORA (3-MAN) WITHOUT RIICHI WAITING ON 5-SOU
IF HE DISCARDED THE 8-SOU
BY KEEPING THE 4-SOU IN HIS HAND
IT WAS STRANGE THAT HE DISCARDED 4-SOU FOR HIS RIICHI
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SOMETHING DID CROSS MY MIND.
WHY DID HE BOTHER TO RIICHI WAITING ON 7-SOU...?
DESPITE HAVING TENPAI FOR THAT SHAPE TOO
IS UNTHINK-ABLE IN THESE FINAL ROUNDS
PLAYING LIKE THIS
SO HARADA DARING TO PLAY THAT WAY MEANS
FOR RIICHI ON 7-SOU
THROWING AWAY HIS ITSUU YAKU
THAT'S WHAT HE WAS STOPPED UP BY..
CLEARLY HE DIDN'T WANT TO WAIT ON THE 5-SOU WHICH MEANS
THAT'S RIGHT
MAY HAVE KNOWN THIS TOO
PERHAPS HARADA
THERE AREN'T FOUR OF THE 5-SOU IN PLAY
AND PLUS
NATURALLY HARADA WOULD HAVE THAT INFOR-MATION
AT THE TIME, SOGA PROBABLY HAD A COUPLE 5-SOU IN HIS HAND
KNEW THAT THERE WASN'T MUCH CHANCE AT THE 5-SOU WAIT FOR ITSUU
THAT HE ALREADY
THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU CAN THINK.

ざわ…
URGH
BECAUSE THEY'D SWITCHED IT WITH HAKU
THERE WERE ONLY THREE, TOTAL
HE CAUGHT THE SCENT OF SOMETHING UNPLEASANT
AND NOTED IT THAT THE 5-SOU WOULDN'T COME OUT
AKAGI RESPONDED TO HARADA'S REFUSAL TO WAIT ON THE 5-SOU
THAT'S HOW IT IS
THAT AKAGI'S PROBABLE PREDICTION THAT "ONE TILE TAKEN OUT WAS THE 5-SOU"
IS BASICALLY
I'M 90% CONFIDENT
EVEN IF THE ILLUSION THIS TIME IS THAT THE HAKU WAS SWITCHED TO AVOID THE FIVES
THAT EXCUSE WILL HARDLY STAND UP
WHAT WAS LEFT OUT OF THIS SET WERE THE FIVES
THERE ARE ALSO SETS THAT HAVE FOUR HAKU AND FOUR RED FIVES
WE'RE USING A SET THIS TIME THAT HAS EIGHT HAKU BUT
URGH…!
RIGHT ON THE MARK…!

SO THAT'S HOW HE DID IT...
I GET IT
NOT BY HIS SENSES ALONE
HE SAW IT
BY CALMLY LOOKING AT HARADA'S GAME...
HEH HEH.
MY PREDICTION IS BASICALLY WHAT TEN SAID JUST NOW.
WELL...
BUT...
THERE'S NO SURE PROOF.
IN THE END, IT'S JUST A GUESS.....
BUT...
I CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE RISKY GAMBLES LIKE THIS ONE.
IT'S MY NATURE...

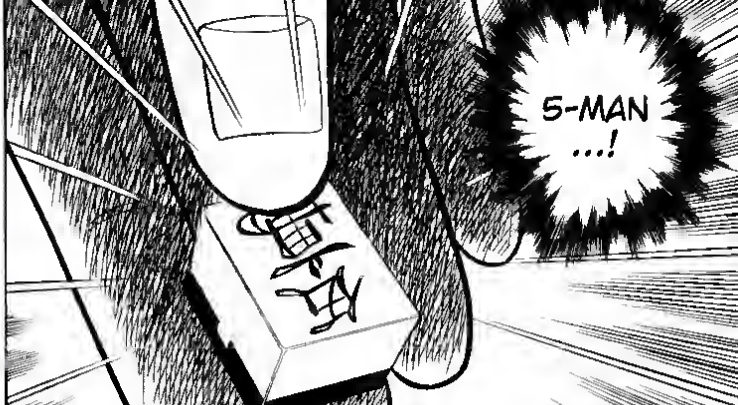
WHICH WILL THEY BE...?
AMONG THE FOUR EXTRA TILES IN THE BOX
OPEN UP THE MAHJONG BOX
IT'S ABOUT TIME, HARADA
NOW THEN...
WITH CHOMBO I GO BELOW ZERO
IF THERE'S NO 5-SOU, IT'S A MISTAKEN RON
EAST ESCAPES THE PREDICAMENT WE'RE IN...
ATAMA-HANE WITH ONLY TAN-YAO SPARES HIROYUKI.
I WIN
IF THERE'S A 5-SOU
AN EASY GAMBLE, RIGHT?...
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU STAYING IN THE GAME
EVEN IF IT GOES BADLY FOR WEST
YESSIR
...HEY...!
.....

THESE FOUR HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT
FIRST, THE FLOWER TILES
THE PROBLEM IS THE FOUR THAT ARE LEFT.

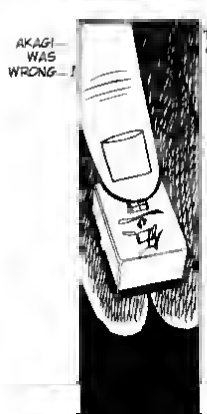
5-PIN ...!
THE FLOW OF THE TILES IS TOWARDS THE FIVES ...?
NEXT ONE IS ALSO HAKU...
HAKU...
IF IT IS HE'S GOT A GOOD CHANCE THE 5-SOU COULD BE THERE...!

THE S-PIN SHOWED UP.
HUH , ?
THE FINAL TILE IS
THAT'S ENOUGH...
THE S-PIN WORKS FOR HIM TOO
AKAGI'S WAIT WAS ON 2-SOU, 5-SOU, OR 5-PIN
2... BUT...
UH... UHHH...
IT'S DONE...!
THE S-PIN'S ENOUGH FOR HIM.
WE DON'T NEED TO SEE THE LAST ONE

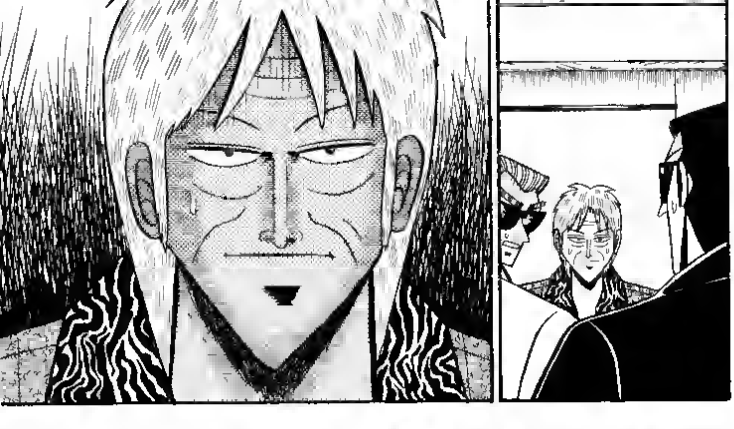
WHAT...?
HARADA...
?
LAST TILE IS
THE...
HUH...?


5-MAN
...!

URGH
...

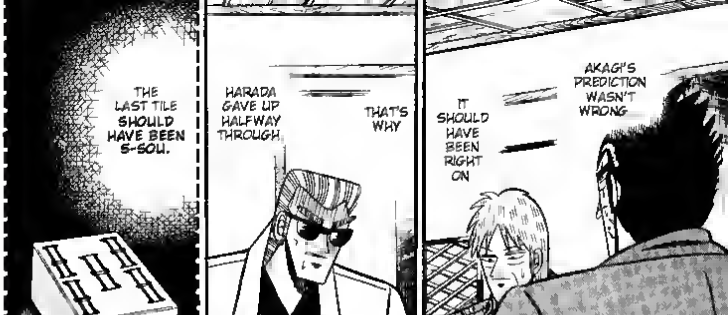

AKAGI—
WAS
WRONG—!

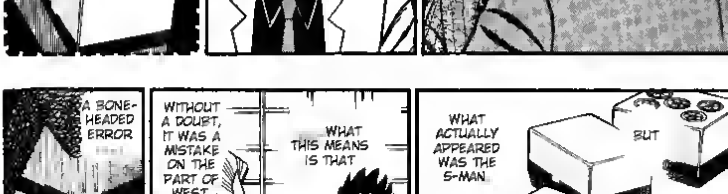
THAT'S
CRAZY
...
GNH
...



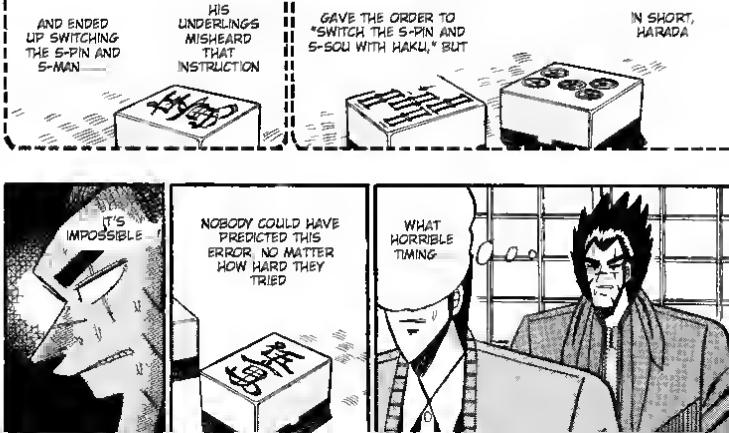
ざわ..ざわ..
ざわ..

IT'S AN ACCIDENT
.....
.....
.....


THE LAST TILE SHOULD HAVE BEEN 5-SOU.
HARADA GAVE UP HALFWAY THROUGH
THAT'S WHY
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN RIGHT ON
AKAGI'S PREDICTION WASN'T WRONG


A BONE-HEADED ERROR
WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT WAS A MISTAKE ON THE PART OF WEST
WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT
WHAT ACTUALLY APPEARED WAS THE 5-MAN
BUT

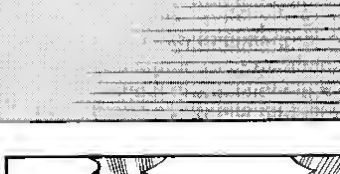
AND ENDED UP SWITCHING THE 5-PIN AND 5-MAN
HIS UNDERLINGS MISHEARD THAT INSTRUCTION
GAVE THE ORDER TO "SWITCH THE 5-PIN AND 5-SOU WITH HAKU," BUT
IN SHORT, HARADA


IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
NOBODY COULD HAVE PREDICTED THIS ERROR, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRIED
WHAT HORRIBLE TIMING

AND AKAGI WAS WAITING ON THAT 5-PIN.
THE 5-PIN IS ONE OF THE TILES LEFT OUT
THERE'S NO PROBLEM...!
BUT...
THERE'S NO PROBLEM ...!
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF, HARADA.
AND YOU ACCEPTED THAT WIN.

AKAGI'S VICTORY STANDS ...!

KH...
.....


HARADA ...!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO THAT...!?

THIS IS AKAGI SHIGERU ...!
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT WORDS FOR IT BUT
HEAVEN'S LUCK, GOOD FORTUNE, STRONG LUCK...
HE SURVIVED...!

THAT MADE HIR. DA'S WORDS SLIP OUT...
.....AN INDESCRIBABLE MAGNETIC FORCE ...
HE ENDS UP MAKING IT THROUGH.
NO MATTER WHAT ACCIDENT STRIKES
OVER-WHELM-INGLY SO...!
HE'S SPECIAL ...
OF THE ONE WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH
HE HAS THE FAVOR
MORE THAN WE CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE
HIRO.
AKAGI.
YOU'RE STILL IN ...
WITH YOUR POWERFUL MAGNETIC FORCE, AGAIN YOU....
.....

IT'S THE SAME...
HUH ...?
DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING .....
WHAT HARADA SAID AFTER
I SAID I WOULD RON ON THE 5-SOU.
THERE WASN'T A 5-SOU IN THE EXTRA TILES...
I
THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED THE RESULT.

.....
IT'S TOO BAD
.....
AKAGI ...!
HE COULDN'T
AKAGI
PLEASE, STOP SAYING THESE STRANGE THINGS

天

CHAPTER 88
SEVERING CONNECTIONS

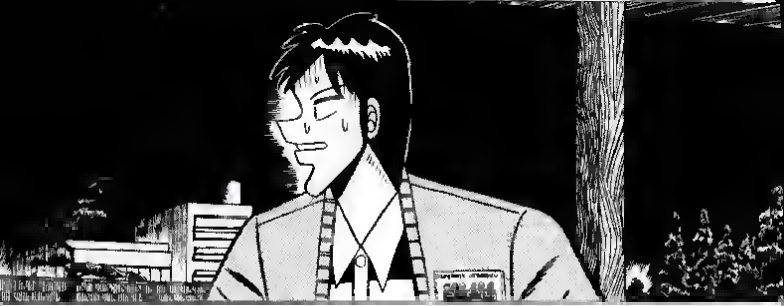
TEN...
.....
.....
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW....

AREN'T YOU GOING TO STOP HIM...?
TEN...!
カラ・・・
HUH...?
I'M GOING TO GO STOP HIM ...!
THAT'S CRAZY .....!
ガヤ
HEH HEH...

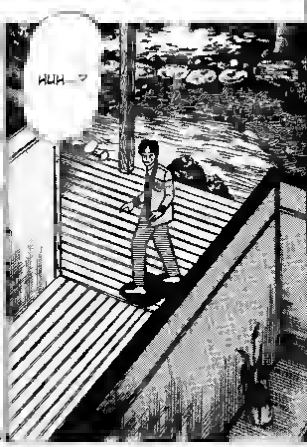
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...

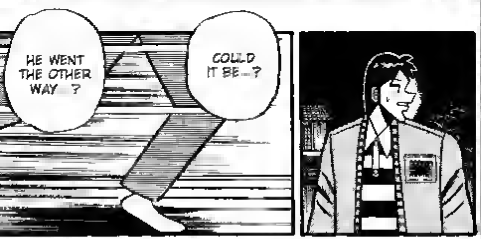
AKAGI HAD STAYED IN, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
IF, ON THOSE WORDS
SO...
I ACCEPTED THAT EVEN THE 5-PIN WOULD HAVE WON AKAGI'S HAND
WHEN I OPENED MY MOUTH EARLIER
I DECLARED IT...
THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT...

IT'S PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY FOR OUR SIDE.
I'LL HAPPILY ACCEPT THIS.
HEH HEH HEH.
I'M SAVED
BY CHOOSING TO WITHDRAW ON HIS OWN
IT FEELS LIKE THAT WAS JUST TOO EASY

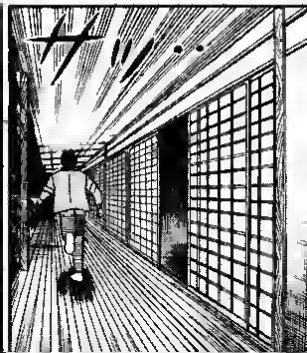


I COULDN'T HAVE LOST SIGHT OF HIM
IF HE WENT TOWARD THE ENTRANCE ...
WHERE'D HE GO ...?


HUH...?


HE WENT THE OTHER WAY ...?
COULD IT BE...?

HUH ...?

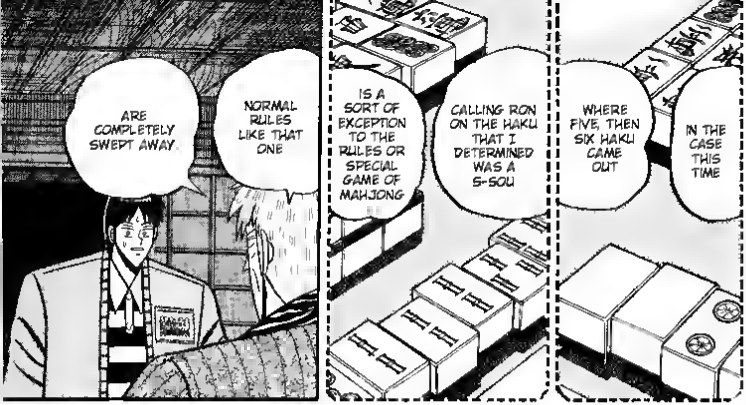


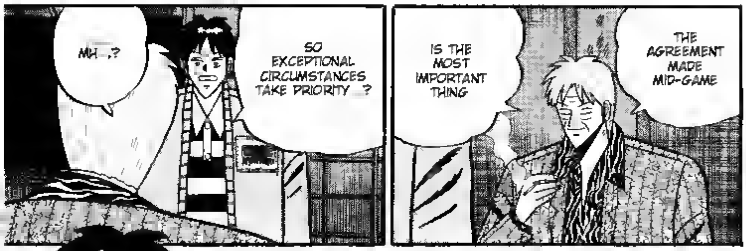
IF YOU WANT TO TALK, COME IN HERE..
IT'S SILLY TO STAND AROUND IN THE HALL TO TALK..
HEH HEH HEH...
AKAGI...

HEH HEH...
WELL IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
I CAN PRETTY MUCH GUESS...

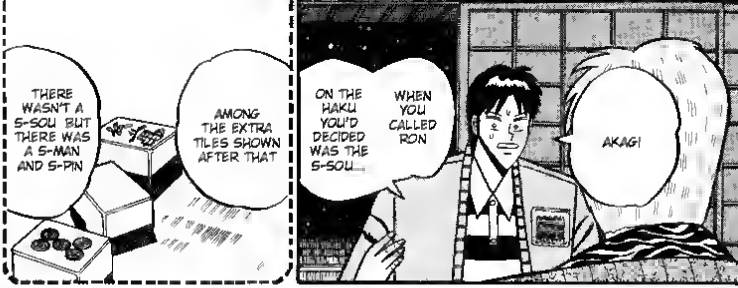
PLEASE, AKAGI, STAY .....!
YEAH...
BEEN DETERMINED ...?
BECAUSE IT'S BEEN DETERMINED THAT YOU WILL STAY.

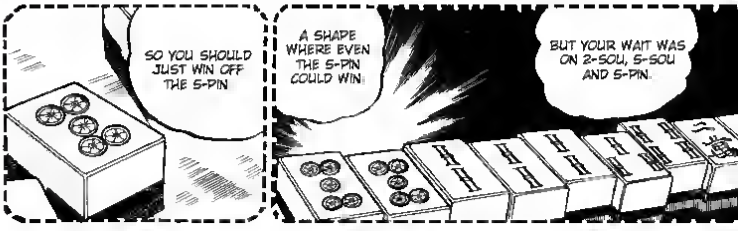
IF YOUR WIN ISN'T ACCEPTED AND IS CHOMBO
CALLED RON AT THE SAME TIME
BOTH YOU AND HARADA
BECAUSE IN THIS LAST ROUND
THE WIN HAS PRIORITY
IN THE CASE OF AN OVERLAPPING WIN AND CHOMBO IN MAHJONG
HEH HEH HEH
IT'S ME
THE ONE GOING BELOW ZERO ISN'T YOU, AKAGI.
IN OTHER WORDS HARADA'S KOKUSHI HAS PRIORITY
IN THIS CASE, THE WIN HAS PRIORITY
WHICH TURNS INTO
BUT YOU SEE
IT'S VERY LIKE YOU, HIROYUKI
IT'S FUNNY.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU STARTED TO SAY
HEH HEH HEH
HA HA HA...!


ARE COMPLETELY SWEPT AWAY
NORMAL RULES LIKE THAT ONE
IS A SORT OF EXCEPTION TO THE RULES OR SPECIAL GAME OF MAHJONG
CALLING RON ON THE HAKU THAT I DETERMINED WAS A 5-SOU
WHERE FIVE, THEN SIX HAKU CAME OUT
IN THE CASE THIS TIME


MH...?
SO EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES TAKE PRIORITY...?
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
THE AGREEMENT MADE MID-GAME

IT'S FINE FOR YOU TO STAY...!
?
FOR YOU TO STAY IN THE GAME AKAGI...!
THERE'S EVEN MORE REASON
THEN...
WELL, THAT'S RIGHT


AKAGI
WHEN YOU CALLED RON
ON THE HAKU YOU'D DECIDED WAS THE S-SOU...
AMONG THE EXTRA TILES SHOWN AFTER THAT
THERE WASN'T A S-SOU BUT THERE WAS A S-MAN AND S-PIN


BUT YOUR WAIT WAS ON 2-SOU, S-SOU AND S-PIN.
A SHAPE WHERE EVEN THE S-PIN COULD WIN
SO YOU SHOULD JUST WIN OFF THE S-PIN

EVEN THE ENEMY HARADA, ACCEPTED IT, DIDN'T HE...?
THE S-PIN IS FINE
A SPECIAL EXCEPTION... IF AGREEMENTS MADE MID-GAME TAKE PRIORITY
WHY WOULDN'T YOU WIN OFF THE S-PIN...?

AKAGI...!
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT...?
OR AM I MAKING A MISTAKE...?
NO... YOU'RE NOT MISTAKEN
RIGHT...!

I DON'T NEED IT
THAT KIND OF WIN...
HIRO...
BUT YOU SEE
...!!!
I WONDER WHAT WE WERE...?
BEFORE WE WERE HUMAN
HIRO...
WE HAVE TO WORK...
THINKING AS A TEAM
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
AKAGI...!
WHETHER OR NOT YOU NEED IT ISN'T THE QUESTION...

FOR A LONG TIME...
LIFE IS ALL CONNECTED...
HUH...?
...
THAT'S HOW I'VE THOUGHT OF THINGS...

AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS PASS...
AND SOMETHING WILL BE BORN AGAIN.
I'LL RETURN TO THE EARTH AND
WHEN I PASS ON AS A HUMAN BEING

BECAUSE LIFE IS ETERNALLY REBORN...
SO I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHEN I DIE
OR A BIRD...
A YOUNG PUP...
A MICROBE IN THE OCEAN .....
OR A FISH...

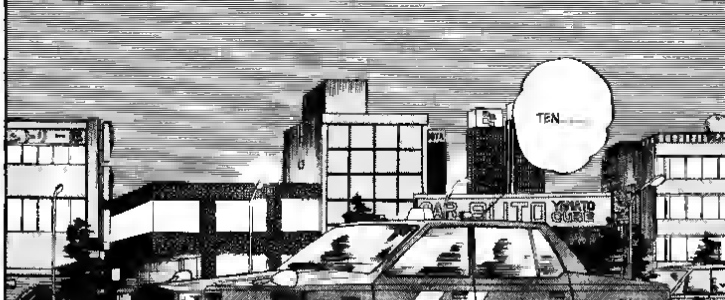
IN OTHER WORDS, TO PUT IT BLUNTLY...
THAT IS THE PROBLEM
THE CONSCIOUSNESS THAT I KNOW AS "MYSELF"
WILL BE GONE...
WHEN I DROP DEAD AS A HUMAN BEING
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS
WHAT I'M AFRAID OF IS
LOSING WHO I AM.
I COULD DIE AT ANY TIME.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.
I...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ...?
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN'T TAKE.
IT'S THE ONLY THING I'LL STAND FIRM ON .....

AS AKAGI SHIGERU ...

I WANT TO WIN OR LOSE

IN SHORT, WHAT HARADA OR THE OTHERS THINK DOESN'T MATTER.
IS THAT THERE WASN'T THE 5-SOU IN THE EXTRA TILES...
THE IMPORTANT PART
IS THAT I SETTLED ON THE 5-SOU
ALL THAT MATTERS
I ALSO KNOW IT'S AN INCONVENIENCE TO EAST...
BUT DESPITE THAT...
I KNOW IT'S A STUPIDLY STUBBORN POSITION TO TAKE
ゴロッ..
FOR ME, THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO
IT'S TOO BAD

A FEW DAYS LATER
HIROYUKI AND TEN
WENT BY CAR TO A CERTAIN HOTEL IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.
TO TALK OVER
THE WAY THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN
WITH WEST WOULD BE FOUGHT
AND THE NEW RULES


TEN.....

WHY DID AKAGI HAVE TO WITHDRAW.....?
NOT SATISFIED BY IT.....
I'M JUST
.....
?

I'D STAY.....
DON'T BE SILLY...
HEH HEH...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THAT SITUATION .....?
WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THE SAME THING AS AKAGI.....?
IF IT WAS YOU, TEN

I'D USE HARADA'S SLIP OF THE TONGUE AS A SHIELD AND PERSEVERE
IN A CASE LIKE THIS ONE
I'D STAY IN BECAUSE I COULDN'T WIN IF I DIDN'T STAY .....!
IT'D BE OUT OF THE QUESTION NOT TO..
AND STAY IN.
STICK BY MY HAND WINNING
THERE MIGHT BE SITUATIONS WHERE YOU'D HAVE TO PASS ON A WIN BUT
IT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION
THAT'S RIGHT.
.....TEN.
YEAH.....!
I'D STAY WITHOUT COMPLAINT ...!
SO THAT I COULD WIN .....!
THERE'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL....
IN THIS CASE

HIRO
I WONDER HOW I SHOULD PLAY NOW?
I'D BEEN FOLLOWING AKAGI'S GUIDELINES OUT OF RESPECT FOR HIM BUT

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
THERE'S A BIT I STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND.

ISN'T FOLLOWING AKAGI'S INTENTIONS.
AND PLAYING LIKE AKAGI
ACTING LIKE AKAGI

AKAGI MAY BE GONE BUT.....
THAT'S RIGHT
YEAH...
WE CAN'T ALL LIVE THE SAME WAY
I'M ME
YOU'RE YOU...
AKAGI IS AKAGI
WE'LL WIN .....!
THAT'S RIGHT...!
HEH HEH...
YEAH, LET'S WIN .....!
HEH HEH...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SUDDENLY GOT MORE ENERGY

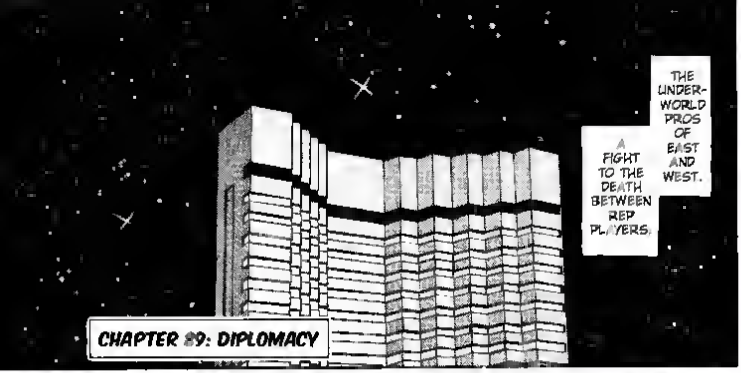
BY THE WAY...
HIRO...
SO THAT WE CAN GET
THAT VALUABLE VICTORY
WE'LL HAVE TO BE A BIT DIPLOMATIC TODAY
I'M THINKING
ABOUT PROPOSING CERTAIN RULES TO WEST TODAY
DIPLOMATIC...?
YEAH...
WHEN I DO
WEST WON'T ACCEPT THAT PROPOSAL.
I'M THINKING ABOUT PUTTING UP A STRONG BLUFF, BUT
WHAT I'M ASKING YOU IS
TO AGREE WITH WHAT I'M SAYING
I DON'T MIND DOING THAT BUT
HUH...?
WHAT KIND OF RULES WILL IT BE...?
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NEW RULES YOU THOUGHT UP...?

HEH HEH...

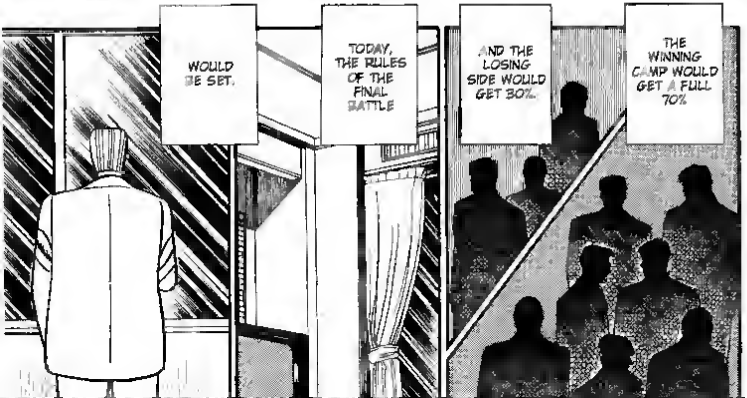
I'LL PROPOSE A TEAM BATTLE
WE'LL BE FIGHTING ON TEAMS. EAST SIDE VS WEST SIDE.
IT WON'T BE AN INDIVIDUAL BATTLE.
FIRST...

HOW IN THE WORLD IS THE WINNER GOING TO BE DECIDED...?
NO EXHANGE OF POINTS
THEN...
IT WON'T BE ABOUT EXCHANGING POINT COUNTERS...
SECOND
HUH...?

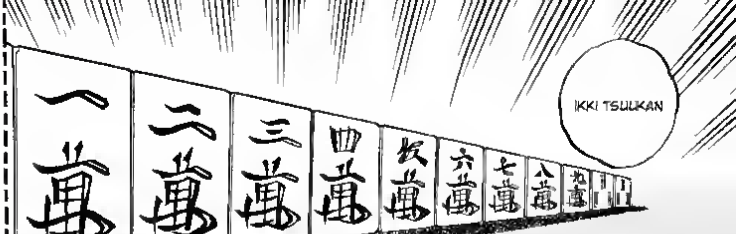
IT'S "CLEAR" MAHJONG ...!
OF USING REPRESENTATIVE 2-HAN YAKU SAN-SHOKU DOU-JUN IKKI TSUU-KAN CHII-TOI-TSU SAN-AN-KOU, AND CHANTA.
WHAT I'M THINKING OF RIGHT NOW IS
THE MATCH WILL BE TO SEE WHICH TEAM CAN CLEAR THOSE FIVE FIRST.
YEAH
"CLEAR"...?
ざわ...
IT'LL PROBABLY BE BETTER FOR YOU TO USE YOUR SENSE OF LOGIC WITH, HIROYUKI
LESS OF A GAMBLE AND MORE LIKE A GAME
THE KEY TO WINNING THE GAME IS TEAMWORK BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLE.


THE UNDER-WORLD PROS OF EAST AND WEST.
A FIGHT TO THE DEATH BETWEEN REP PLAYERS.
CHAPTER 89: DIPLOMACY

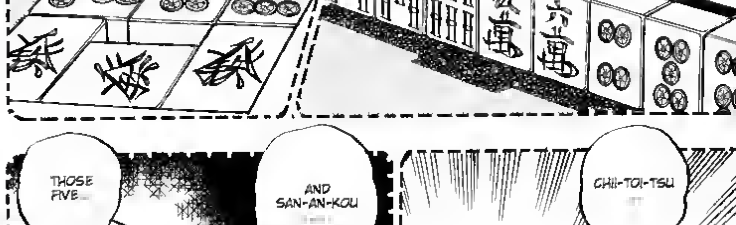
THE ASSIGNMENT OF UNDERWORLD REP PLAYERS
WHAT WOULD BE DECIDED WITH THIS BATTLE WAS
ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS TO BEGIN THE FINAL SHOWDOWN IN THREE DAYS.
THIS CONFLICT WAS REACHING ITS CLIMAX AT LAST.


WOULD BE SET.
TODAY, THE RULES OF THE FINAL BATTLE
AND THE LOSING SIDE WOULD GET 30%.
THE WINNING CAMP WOULD GET A FULL 70%

CHAPTER 89
DIPLOMACY
THE RULES ARE THAT THE FIRST TEAM TO CLEAR ALL FIVE HURDLES IS THE WINNER
A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF 2-HAN YAKU
VICTORY CONDITIONS ARE SET BY
A TEAM BATTLE
IT'S MAHJONG WITHOUT AN EXCHANGE OF POINTS
THE FOLLOWING FIVE...
THE YAKU THAT WILL HAVE TO BE COMPLETED ARE...
JUST WIN WITH THE FIVE DESIGNATED YAKU
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO FROM THE TEAM COMPLETES EACH YAKU
DEALING IN ON PURPOSE IS ALLOWED TOO
THAT'S ALL...
YEAH...
CLEAR MAHJONG...?
IT'S SIMPLE...
WHY...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT...?
HEH HEH...


IKKI TSUUKAN

CHANTA
SAN-SHOKU DOU-JUN


THOSE FIVE...
AND SAN-AN-KOU
CHII-TOI-TSU

THAT'S CRAZY!
TO CLEAR ALL FIVE OF THESE WINS
THE FIRST CAMP

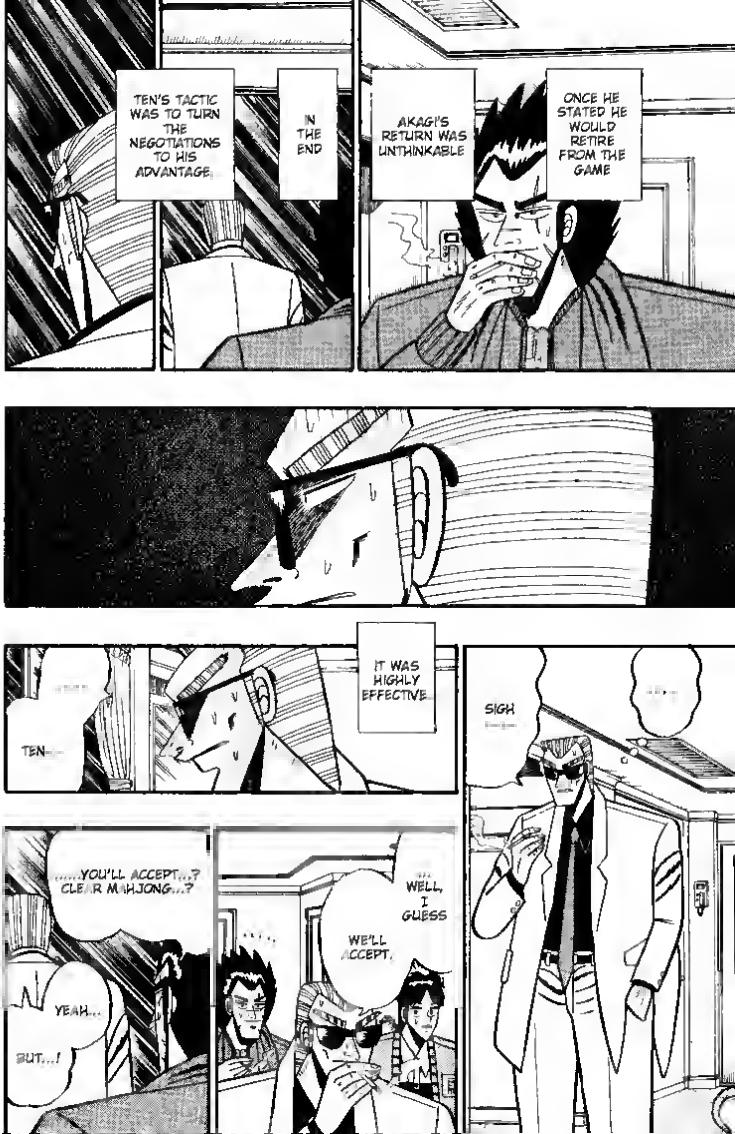
THERE'S NO DEPTH TO IT...!
AS IF WE'D PLAY SOME KIND OF DUMB MATCHING GAME LIKE THAT...!
A BIASED CONDITION LIKE THAT...!
AND FIRST OFF, WHY DO YOU THINK WEST WOULD ACCEPT
HUH...?
ACTUALLY, THIS ISN'T BIASED AT ALL
HARADA
HEH HEH...
HOLDING BACK YOUR TRUMP CARD.....?
YEAH...
IN FACT, WE'RE HOLDING BACK OUR TRUMP CARD
...?
THIS IDEA OF CLEAR MAHJONG ISN'T EAST PULLING OUT A TRUMP CARD AT ALL

WHAT THE HELL ...?
IN SHORT
WEST,
DURING THE QUALIFYING ROUNDS OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE
GIVING THE REASON THAT ONE PLAYER WASN'T FEELING WELL
BROUGHT OUT A PERSONAL ASSASSIN, OGAMI
AS A REP PLAYER, RIGHT?...

WHICH MEANS
NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN TO THE FINAL SHOWDOWN
IF HIROYUKI ISN'T FEELING SO GOOD

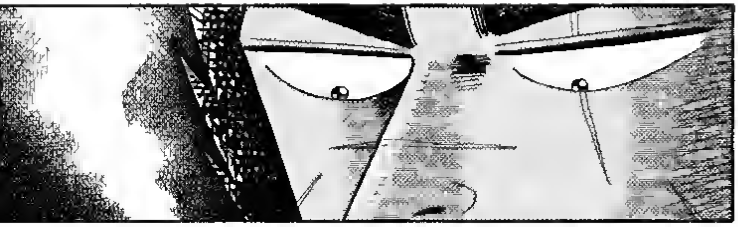
YOU CAN'T LODGE ANY COMPLAINT IF WE BRING OUT A REP PLAYER.
URGH
.....
THE TRUMP CARD WE'RE HOLDING BACK AND NOT USING
IS, IN OTHER WORDS, THE RIGHT TO USE THAT REP PLAYER
IF WE DO
HE SAYS HE'LL COME BACK...

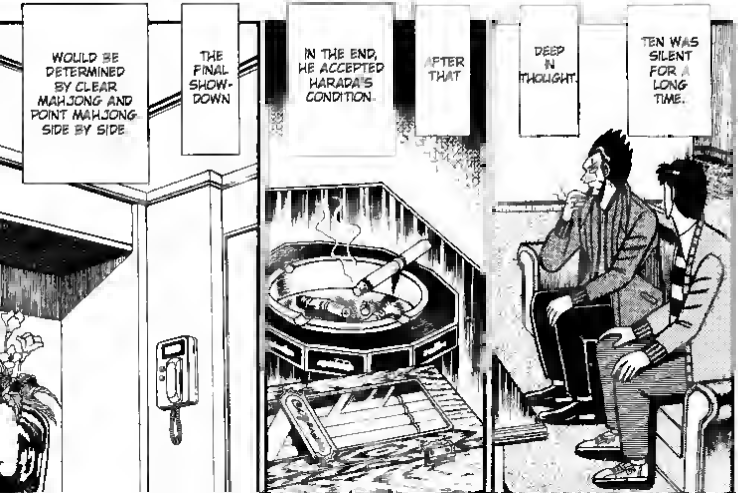
ざわ..
THAT PERSON ...
AKAGI SHIGERU ...!
AKAGI
NEEDLESS TO SAY TEN WAS BLUFFING
WOULDN'T BE BROUGHT BACK THAT EASILY
HEH HEH...
KH...


TEN'S TACTIC WAS TO TURN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO HIS ADVANTAGE.
IN THE END
AKAGI'S RETURN WAS UNTHINKABLE
ONCE HE STATED HE WOULD RETIRE FROM THE GAME
IT WAS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE.
TEN...
SIGH
.....YOU'LL ACCEPT...? CLEAR MAHJONG...?
YEAH... BUT...!
.....
...WELL, I GUESS WE'LL ACCEPT.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE TEAM WHO HAS A PLAYER GO BELOW ZERO IS THE LOSER.
ADD THE NORMAL POINT RULES OF MAHJONG
AT THE SAME TIME
WHILE FIGHTING UNDER THE RULES OF CLEAR MAHJONG
WE WON'T ACCEPT THE RULES OF CLEAR MAHJONG EITHER...!
IF THERE ISN'T THAT
A MATCH SHOULD BE TENSE BUT
CLEAR MAHJONG OR WHATEVER HAS NONE OF THAT.
AS IF YOU CAN CALL THAT A MATCH.....!
DOESN'T MAKE ANYONE FEAR DEALING INTO A HAND...
A GAME OF MAHJONG WITHOUT POINTS
I SEE.....
CLEAR MAHJONG AND NORMAL POINT-COUNTING MAHJONG, SIDE BY SIDE.
THAT'S THE MINIMUM.
AT LEAST HAVE THE NORMAL RULES THERE TOO...!
LIKE I'D SETTLE FOR SOMETHING THAT'S MORE LIKE A PUZZLE!

SIDE BY SIDE, HUH
WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO




WOULD BE DETERMINED BY CLEAR MAHJONG AND POINT MAHJONG SIDE BY SIDE.
THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN
IN THE END, HE ACCEPTED HARADA'S CONDITION.
AFTER THAT
DEEP IN THOUGHT.
TEN WAS SILENT FOR A LONG TIME.

東京生命

HUH...?
HARADA PUSHED IT HALFWAY BACK.....
IT'S JUST...

DOESN'T MAKE IT EASY TO CORNER THEM...
DIPLOMACY
ESPECIALLY THIS TIME...
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH
AH, WELL...
HEH HEH...

THIS TIME WE GOT ADVANTAGE OF THEM.
WHEN I WAS AGGRESSIVE
WHEN I SAID AKAGI OR SOMEONE MIGHT SHOW UP
SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN!
THEY'RE QUICK-TEMPERED.

NO MATTER WHAT I SAID ABOUT AKAGI, IT WAS ALL JUST A BLUFF!
IT WAS AN EMPTY THREAT FROM THE START.

ARE FORE
SO THE NORMAL POINT RULES
I FIGURED AS LONG AS I COULD GET CLEAR MAHJONG PAST THEM, I'D BE SATISFIED WITH THAT.
SO IT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
UH...
IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO LEAVE IT...

YEAH...
ON WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT THE DOUBLE SET OF RULES...
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU HESITATED FOR A LONG TIME.....?
BACK THEN, TEN...
BUT...

HUH . ?
I PRETENDED TO THINK FOR A WHILE
WENT PRETTY MUCH JUST AS PLANNED
THAT

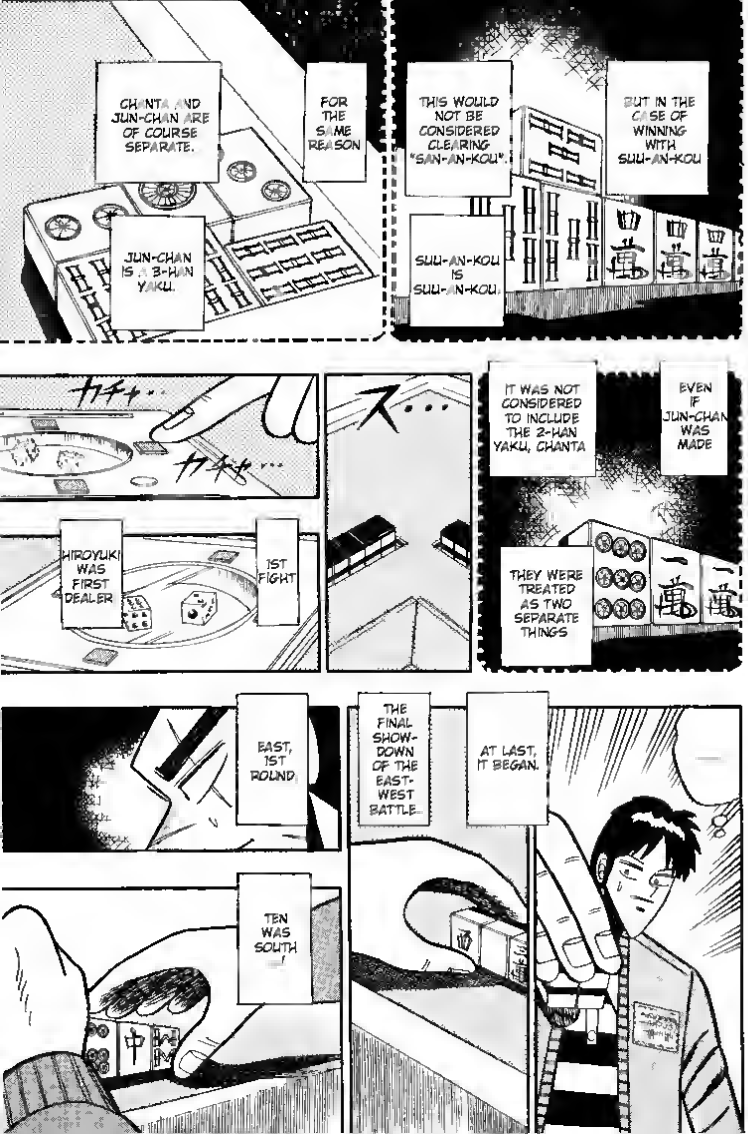
LOOK TROUBLED ...?
I MADE SURE TO LOOK TROUBLED TOO.....
HARADA'S FACE WAS PRETTY TENSE.
I SAID "OKAY" ON MY SECOND RESPONSE.
HEH HEH -

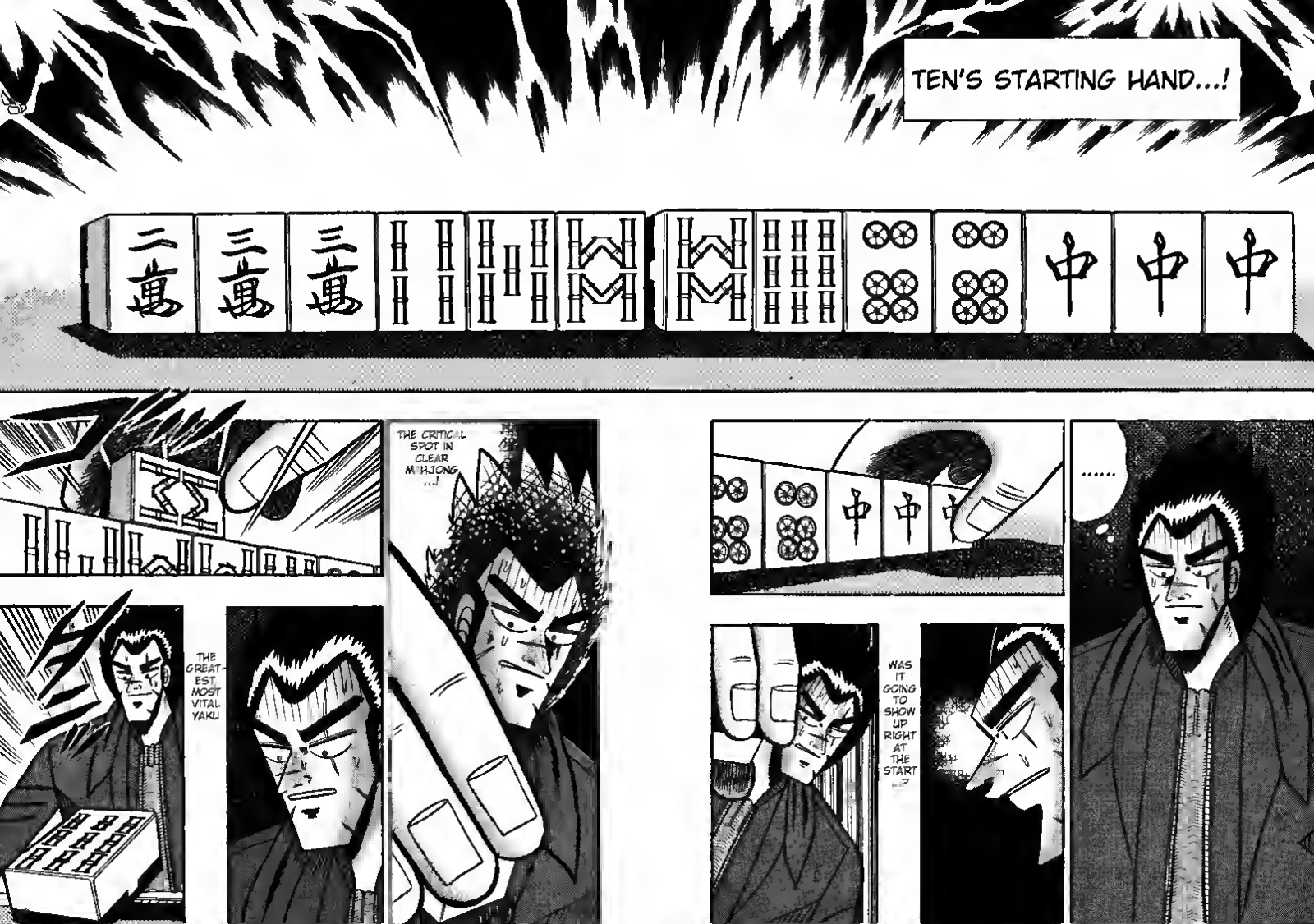
YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT, DID YOU?
.....
HEH HEH...
.....WHAT?
HEH HEH...
...UHH...
JUST BEING DRAMATIC
IT WAS AN ACT
THREE DAYS LATER
AND THEN
THE LAST BATTLE.
THE CONFLICT UNDERWORLD PROS STAKED THEIR PRIDE ON
THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVED

THE FINAL SHOWDOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE...!
WHICH WOULD TAKE THE MATCH ...?
FOR WEST, HARADA KATSUMI AND SOGA MITSUI.
TEN TAKASHI AND IGAWA HIROYUKI.
THE SURVIVORS FROM EAST WERE

ざわ‥
ざわ‥
IT WAS TIME TO SETTLE IT...!
WOULD BE INHERITED WHEN THEY STARTED UP AGAIN.
BUT THE POINTS THEY HAD AT THE END OF EACH HANCHAN
WHOEVER LOST ALL OF THESE POINTS FIRST WAS THE LOSER.
EACH PLAYER STARTS WITH 25000 POINTS
IT WAS THE BASIS OF THE RULES UNDER THIS STYLE OF PLAY THAT WHEN SOMEONE WENT BELOW ZERO
WITH THAT 3000 POINTS
WOULD ENTER THE NEXT HAN-CHAN
THAT PERSON WOULD DETERMINE WHOSE CAMP LOST THE GAME
WITH 3000 POINTS LEFT
IN SHORT, A PLAYER WHO FINISHED THE HAN-CHAN
BOTH PUT TOGETHER
WOULD BE SETTLED BY CLEAR MAHJONG SIDE BY SIDE WITH POINT MAHJONG.
THE WINNER AND LOSER OF THE FINAL SHOWDOWN
THE WINNER AND LOSER IN A GAME OF POINTS MAHJONG WAS CLEAR AND SIMPLE
OF THESE TWO SETS OF RULES

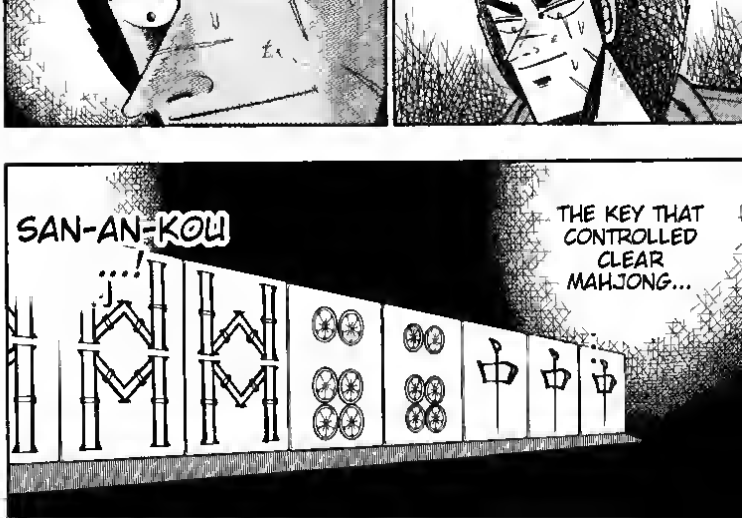
IKKI TSUUKAN, SAN-SHOKU DOU-JUN, CHANTA, CHII-TOI-TSU, AND SAN-AN-KOU
OUT OF THE 2-HAN YAKU IN MAHJONG
THE CAMP THAT CLEARED ALL FIVE HURDLES WAS THE WINNER.
THE WINNER AND LOSER OF THAT GAME WAS SIMPLE AND CLEAR, TOO.
AND ON THE OTHER HAND FOR CLEAR MAHJONG
ALSO...
...WHICH MEANT A FULL-ON BATTLE.
COMBINATION-PLAY AND DEALING IN ON PURPOSE WAS ALLOWED.
THOSE FIVE WOULD BE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE.
AN OPEN SAN-SHOKU OR OPEN ITSUU WOULD COUNT AS CLEARED.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A CLOSED HAND.
FOR ITSUU AND SAN-SHOKU AND SO ON


CHANTA AND JUN-CHAN ARE OF COURSE SEPARATE.
FOR THE SAME REASON
JUN-CHAN IS A 3-HAN YAKU.
THIS WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED CLEARING "SAN-AN-KOU".
BUT IN THE CASE OF WINNING WITH SUU-AN-KOU
SUU-AN-KOU IS SUU-AN-KOU.
HIROYUKI WAS FIRST DEALER
1ST FIGHT
IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO INCLUDE THE 2-HAN YAKU, CHANTA
EVEN IF JUN-CHAN WAS MADE
THEY WERE TREATED AS TWO SEPARATE THINGS
EAST, 1ST ROUND
TEN WAS SOUTH
THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE.
AT LAST, IT BEGAN.


TEN'S STARTING HAND...!
THE GREATEST MOST VITAL YAKU
THE CRITICAL SPOT IN CLEAR MAHJONG ...!
WAS IT GOING TO SHOW UP RIGHT AT THE START ...?
.....

MEANT THAT YOU COULD SAY THAT THE GAME WAS HALF OVER.
THE KEY YAKU THAT, IF COMPLETED,

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO AIM FOR RIGHT AT THE START.
THIS ONE


SAN-AN-KOU
...!
THE KEY THAT CONTROLLED CLEAR MAHJONG...

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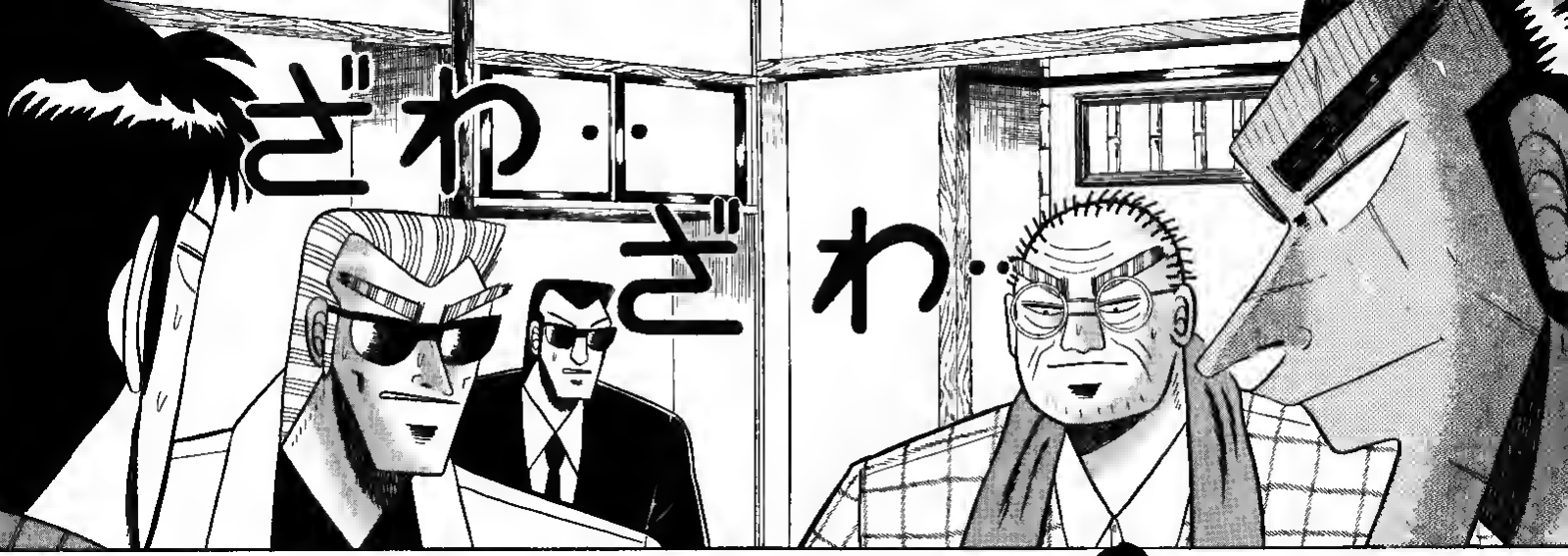
CHAPTER 90
SUPPORT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SAN-SHOKU DOU-JUN, IKKI TSUUKAN, CHANTA, CHII-TOI-TSU, AND SAN-AN-KOU
A SET OF 2-HAN YAKU
CLEAR MAHJONG
THE PROBLEM WAS THE OTHER WAY
THOSE FIVE
ピミッ
WHICH IS THE STRONGER ONE—?
OF THE TWO WAYS TO SETTLE THIS MATCH
IRREGULAR RULES.
IN SHORT, THE SIDE THAT CLEARED THOSE WOULD "WIN"
WERE THE YAKU TO WIN WITH

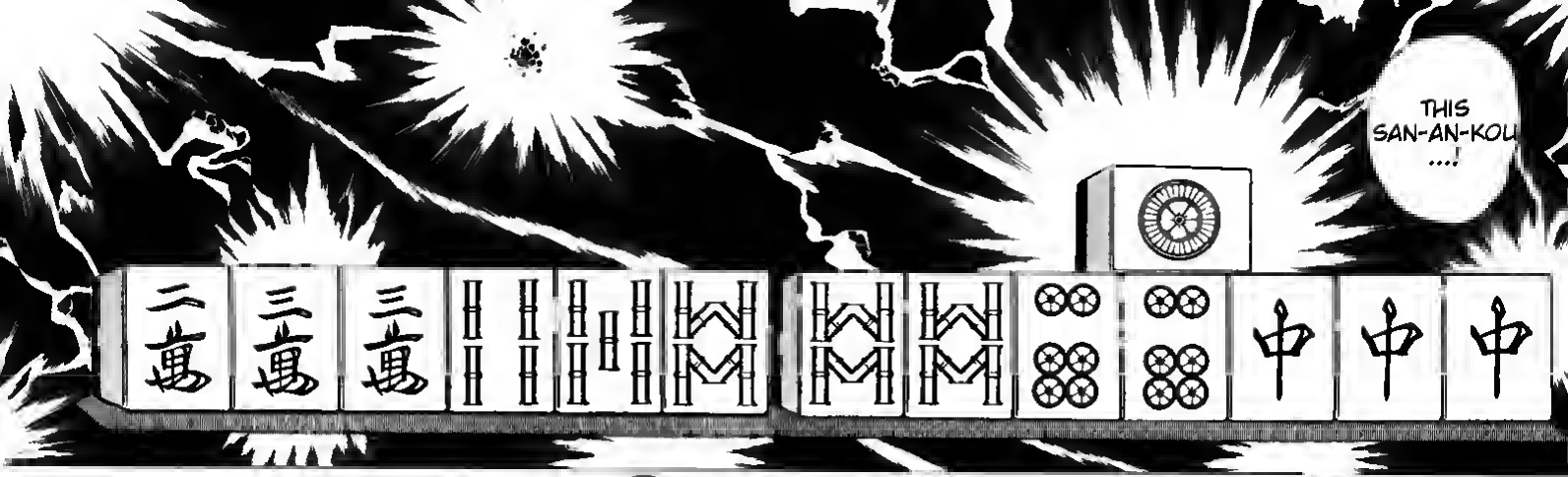
THAT THE GAME COULD BE SETTLED
THERE WERE TWO WAYS
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE
THE SIDE OF THE PERSON WHO WENT BELOW ZERO LOST - THOSE WERE THE RULES
THE FIRST, THAT THE GAME ENDED WHEN SOMEONE WENT BELOW ZERO WAS ORTHODOX

IN THE SHOWDOWN GAME TOO
THIS IS A FLAW
IT'S THE KEY THAT CONTROLS WHO WINS BUT——
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT A BIT

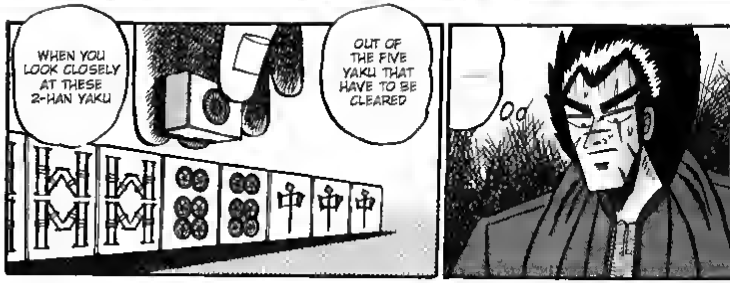
RATHER THAN GOING ABOUT IT THE HARD WAY AND CLEARING ALL FIVE 2-HAN YAKU
SOMEONE COULD FOCUS THEIR AIM
AND SETTLE THE MATCH BY SKILLFULLY BRINGING SOMEONE ELSE BELOW ZERO.

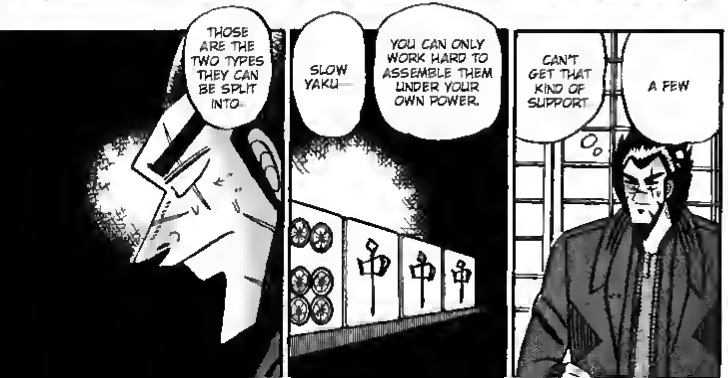
THERE COULD BE THAT SCHOOL OF THOUGHT, BUT
THAT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE
THE GAME THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME.
ONCE POINTS ARE LOST UNDER NORMAL RULES, IF YOU WIN, YOU CAN GET THEM BACK.

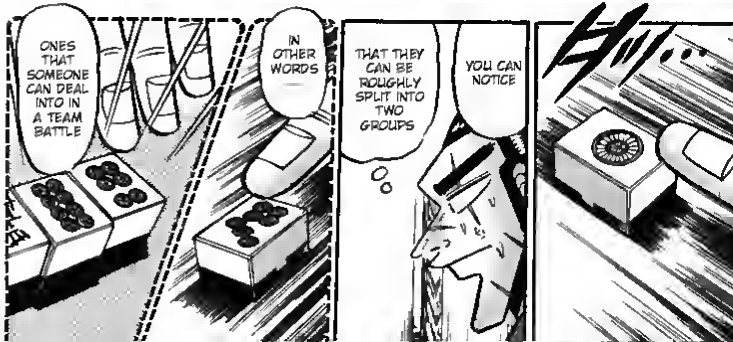
WITH IT, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SO EASY TO MAKE SOMEONE GO BELOW ZERO
THIS SUPPORT IS A BIG DEAL...
DEAL INTO THEIR HAND ON PURPOSE
AND QUICKLY
UNDER THESE RULES, IF AN ALLY IS GOING UNDER IN TERMS OF POINTS, THE OTHER PERSON CAN AGGRESSIVELY SUPPORT THEM
IS A SMART MOVE...
MANAGING THAT
WHILE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR POINTS
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO CLEAR THE FIVE 2-HAN YAKU
THE ONE I'M AFTER RIGHT NOW
THAT THE HIGHEST HURDLE TO BYPASS
THERE'S NO QUESTION
THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THOSE YAKU IS
AMONG THOSE FIVE 2-HAN YAKU
AND


THIS SAN-AN-KOU ...!

ONES WITH A SORT OF MOBILITY TO THEM
ONES WHERE SUPPORT IS POSSIBLE
QUICK YAKU.
AND INTENTIONALLY LET PEOPLE CALL ON TILES
TO ALLOW A HAND TO ADVANCE AND SO ON.

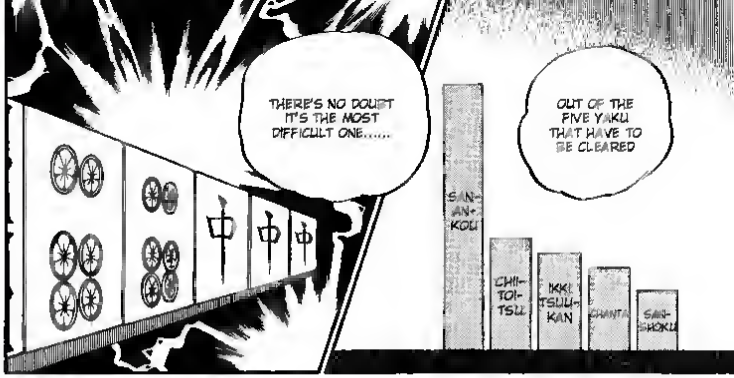

WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSELY AT THESE 2-HAN YAKU
OUT OF THE FIVE YAKU THAT HAVE TO BE CLEARED

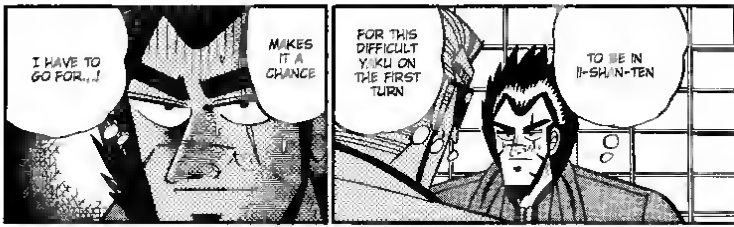

THOSE ARE THE TWO TYPES THEY CAN BE SPLIT INTO.
SLOW YAKU—
YOU CAN ONLY WORK HARD TO ASSEMBLE THEM UNDER YOUR OWN POWER.
CAN'T GET THAT KIND OF SUPPORT.
A FEW

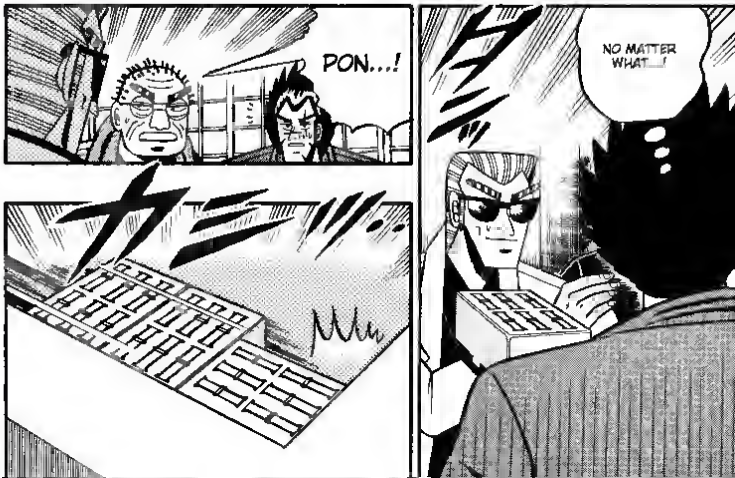

ONES THAT SOMEONE CAN DEAL INTO IN A TEAM BATTLE
IN OTHER WORDS—
THAT THEY CAN BE ROUGHLY SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS
YOU CAN NOTICE

IKKI TSUUKAN..
SAN-SHOKU DOU-JUN
THE QUICK YAKU ARE
THOSE THREE.
AND CHANTA.
AND
THIS IS A HAND THAT CAN'T BE ADVANCED BY CALLING
FIRST OF ALL, CHII-TOI-TSU.
AND CONVERSELY THE SLOW YAKU ARE
THIS SAN-AN-KOU

AS SOON AS IT'S READY...
UNTIL YOU GET TO TENPAI, BUT...
SURE, THERE'S NO SUPPORT FOR CHII-TOI-TSU
THOSE ARE THE TWO WHERE YOU CAN'T EXPECT MUCH SUPPORT FROM YOUR ALLIES
THIS SAN-AN-KOU IS ESPECIALLY TOUGH...
THAT DEALING IN IS SIGNIFICANT.
THEY CAN DEAL IN ON PURPOSE
IT'S HARD TO EVEN GET TO TENPAI.
BUT FOR SAN-AN-KOU
IS DIFFICULT TO EXPECT
SUPPORT THROUGH DEALING IN
IT'S A YAKU THAT HAS TO BE CLEARED ON ONE'S OWN.
FOR IT TO BE SAN-AN-KOU
IT HAS TO BE TSUMO
WITH A DOUBLE PAIR WAIT
EVEN IF YOU GET TO TENPAI


THERE'S NO DOUBT IT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT ONE.....
OUT OF THE FIVE YAKU THAT HAVE TO BE CLEARED
SAN-AN-KOU
CHII-TOI-TSU
IKKI TSUU-KAN
CHANTA
SAN-SHOKU


I HAVE TO GO FOR...!
MAKES IT A CHANCE
FOR THIS DIFFICULT YAKU ON THE FIRST TURN
TO BE IN II-SHU'N-TEN


PON...!
NO MATTER WHAT...!

URGH
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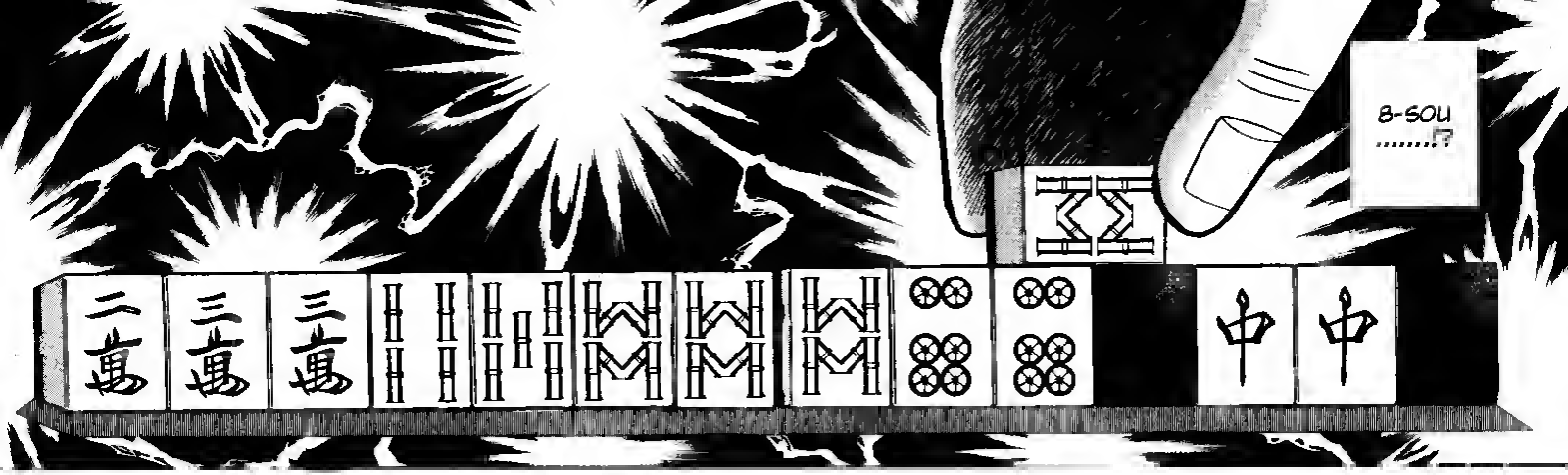
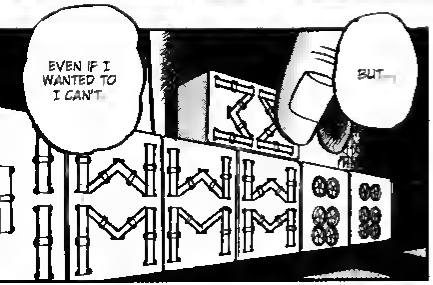
SO HE'S FINALLY STARTING TO MOVE, HUH...?
IN THIS FINAL SHOWDOWN
ONCE SOMEONE CALLS
ALL THE SUPPORTING PARTNER HAS TO DO IS KEEP LETTING THEM CALL
THAT'S ALL THEY NEED
JUST DO THEIR PART
IT'S STARTED EARLY
IT LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT NOT HAVE MUCH TIME
SHIT...!
HUH...?

CHUN ...!?
A SORT OF CAMOU-FLAGE
BUT TEN DARED TO ACT AGAINST THAT
MAKING A CLOSED KAN WAS AN UNTHINK-ABLE PLAY
AS IT WAS ESSENTIALLY LETTING THEM KNOW HE HAD THE MEANS TO MAKE SAN-AN-KOU
WAS THE KEY TO CLEAR MAHJONG TOO
NATURALLY, WEST KNEW THAT SAN-AN-KOU
CHUN, HUH...
NEXT TURN
IT BACKFIRED ON HIM.
BUT
HIS GOAL WAS TO MAKE WEST THINK THAT...
DIDN'T HAVE A HOPE OF GETTING SAN-AN-KOU IN HIS HAND.
MAKING THIS CLOSED KAN WOULD MEAN
IT WASN'T POSSIBLE, SO HE MADE A CLOSED KAN.
TEN DARED TO KAN.
KAN...!


8-SOU
.....!?


EVEN IF I WANTED TO I CAN'T.
BUT...

I COULD RUN FROM IT BY MAKING A CLOSED KAN ON THE 8-SOU
THAT WOULD SETTLE IT
IN THIS CASE HERE

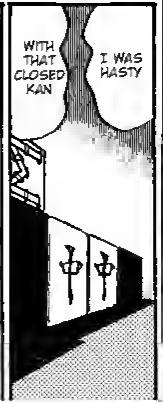
WHAT A MISTAKE.
DAMN...
I GUESS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...

SHIT
I CAN'T MAKE A CLOSED KAN

NO MATTER WHAT
WHEN I DON'T WANT TO LET THEM KNOW I'M AFTER SAN-AN-KOU

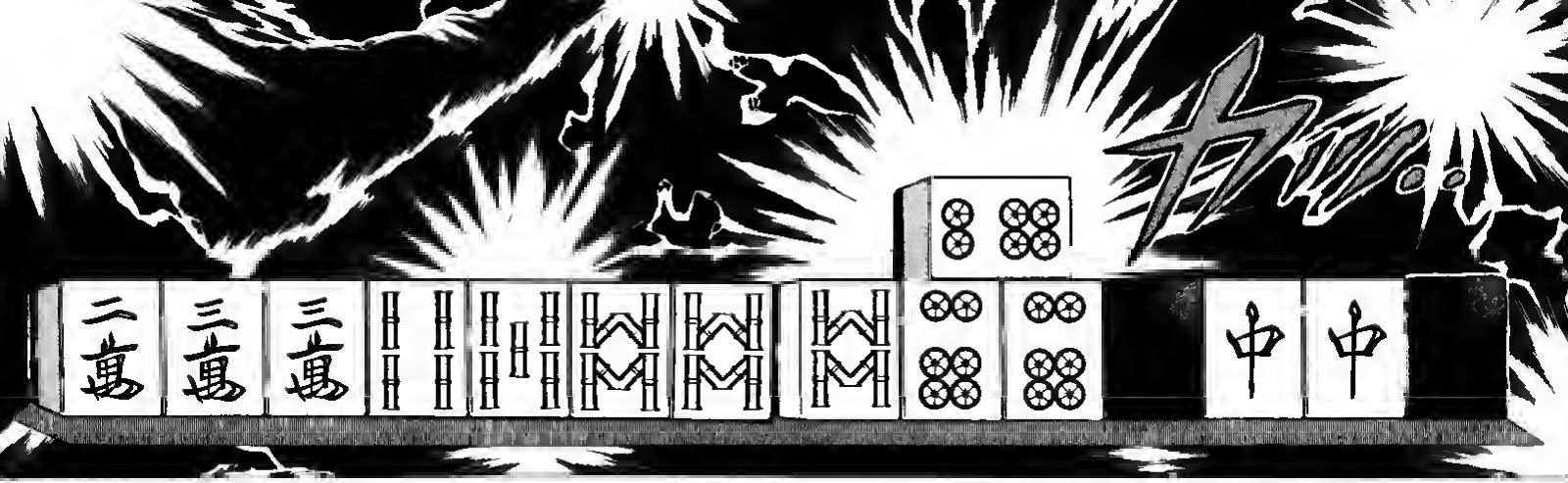
DAMMIT...
GH...

I DON'T WANT TO DISCARD THIS 8-SOU
EXPOSED
SHIMOCHA SOGA HAS CHIN-ITSU
DISCARDS


WITH THAT CLOSED KAN
I WAS HASTY

SHIT...!
CHII ...!
.....
I'VE GOT TO SHAPE UP.....
I DON'T LIKE HOW THIS IS GOING.
CH' ...!
HE WAS GOING TO CALL ON IT
I KNEW IT

THE WORST, BUT...
IT'S THE WORST SITUATION.
ENDED UP ADVANCING MY OPPONENT'S HAND
MY MISTAKE
SO I COULD FINISH THIS SAN-AN-KOU
EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO DELAY FOR A WHILE
IF I DO...
WILL I HAVE TIME...?
HE STILL HAS A BIT TO GO
WHAT STARTED COMING OUT OF HIS HAND ISN'T SOUZU
BUT...
IT'S A WORD TILE, WHICH MEANS
KH...!
DO WHATEVER IT TAKE TO GET TO TENPAI!
I'LL GET MY HAND READY!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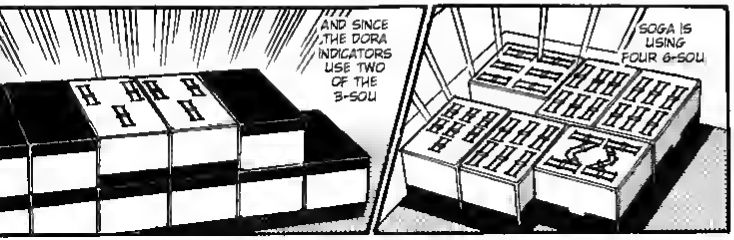
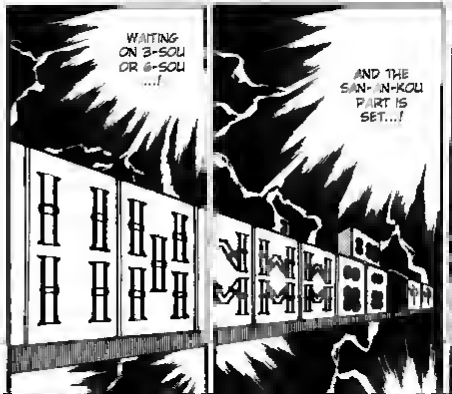
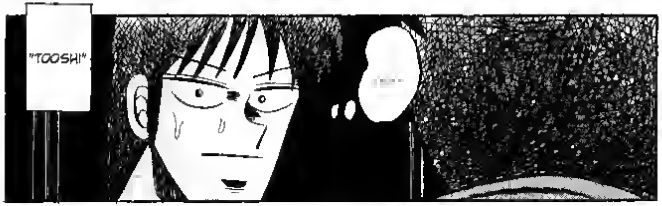

AND SINCE THE DORA INDICATORS USE TWO OF THE 3-SOU
SOGA IS USING FOUR 6-SOU

EAST CAMP WIL HAVE IT'S SAN-AN-KOU!
BY DEALING IN WITH THE 3-SOU
NO PROBLEM, IT'LL ALL BE OVER...!
AS LONG AS HIRO CAN DISCARD THE 3-SOU
THERE ARE ONLY TWO 3-SOU LEFT ..... IT'S A BAD WAIT, BUT

SAN-AN-KOU ...!
A READY HAND ...!

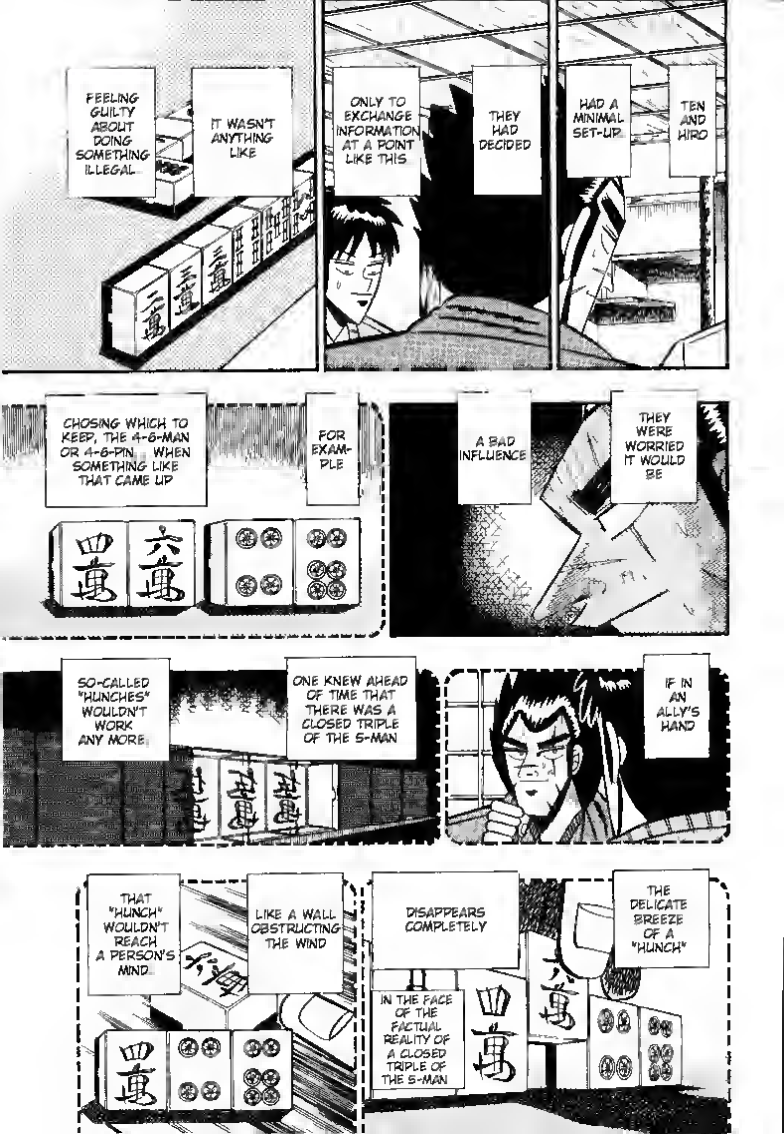

WAITING ON 3-SOU OR 6-SOU ...!
AND THE SAN-AN-KOU PART IS SET...!

GOT A 3-SOU...?
WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND...?
HIRO...


"TOOSHI"

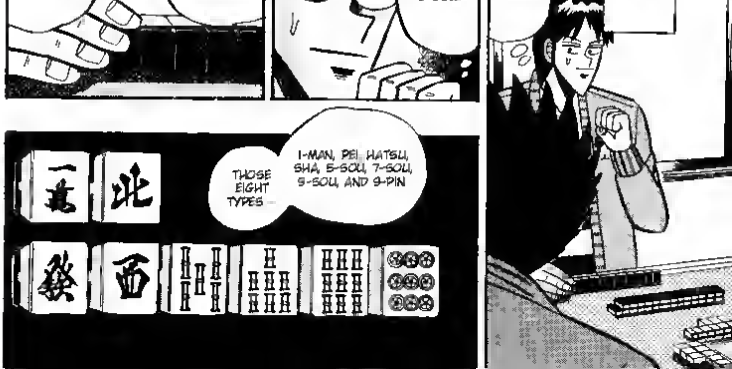
IN THIS FINAL SHOW-DOWN
FOR DEALING IN ON PURPOSE
NORMALLY "TOOSHI" ARE ILLEGAL BUT
TEN ASKED ABOUT HIRO'S HAND...
THROUGH TOOSHI (SIGNS)

IN A MORE ELABORATE WAY THAN EAST
NATURALLY WEST WAS DOING IT TOO.
MORE NECESSITY THAN ILLEGAL.
BEING ABLE TO TELL YOUR ALLY WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND THROUGH SIGNS IS


FEELING GUILTY ABOUT DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL...
IT WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE
ONLY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AT A POINT LIKE THIS
THEY HAD DECIDED
HAD A MINIMAL SET-UP
TEN AND HIRO
CHOSING WHICH TO KEEP, THE 4-8-MAN OR 4-8-PIN... WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAME UP
FOR EXAMPLE
A BAD INFLUENCE
THEY WERE WORRIED IT WOULD BE
SO-CALLED "HUNCHES" WOULDN'T WORK ANY MORE.
ONE KNEW AHEAD OF TIME THAT THERE WAS A CLOSED TRIPLE OF THE 5-MAN
IF IN AN ALLY'S HAND
THAT "HUNCH" WOULDN'T REACH A PERSON'S MIND...
LIKE A WALL OBSTRUCTING THE WIND
DISAPPEARS COMPLETELY
IN THE FACE OF THE FACTUAL REALITY OF A CLOSED TRIPLE OF THE 5-MAN
THE DELICATE BREEZE OF A "HUNCH"

IN THE END, YOU CAN ONLY COUNT ON YOUR OWN INTUITION
IT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS THING TO RELY ON.
SO THEY KEPT "TOOSHI" TO A BARE MINIMUM
OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE ALL THE TILES WERE
EVEN WITH "TOOSHI"
THAT WAS WHAT TEN FEARED

ON THE VERGE OF COMPLETING SAN-AN-KOU
THE CORE TO CLEAR MAHJONG
HE WANTED TO CHECK
RIGHT NOW AT THIS POINT IN THE GAME
THAT'S HOW TEN DECIDED TO PLAY IT HERE.

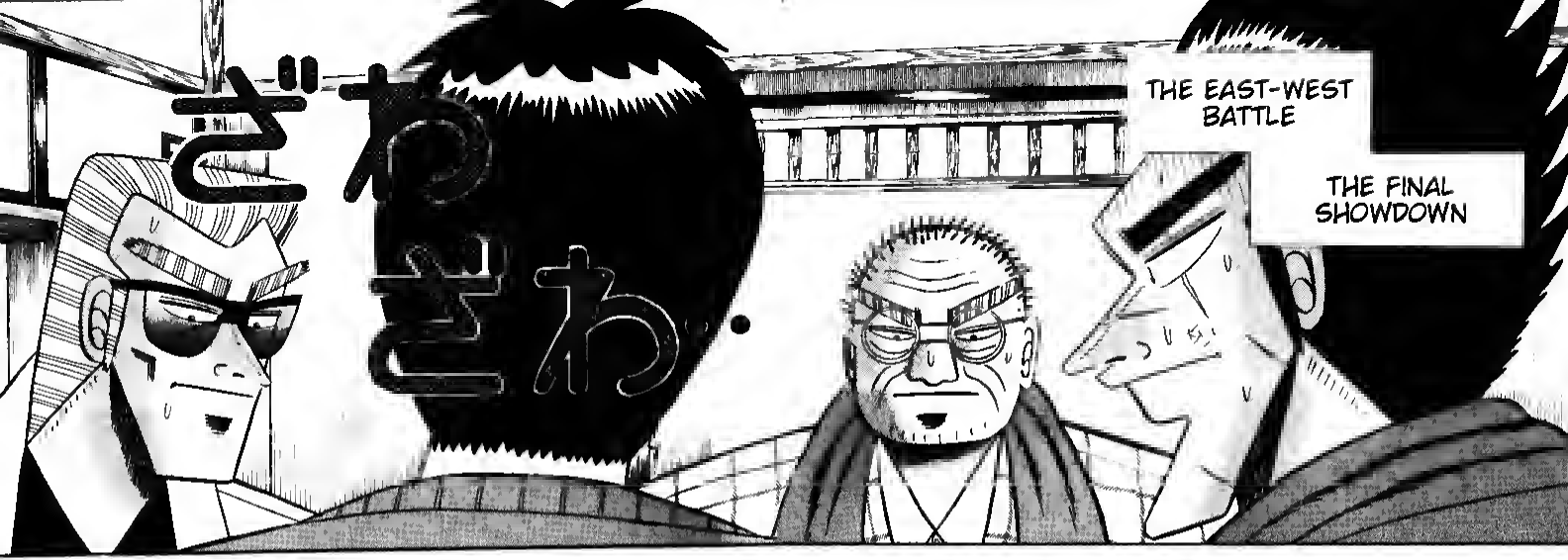

THE TILES I HAVE ARE
I'M AIMING FOR CHII-TOI-TSU
I DON'T HAVE 3-SOU.
TEN
THE REPLY
THOSE EIGHT TYPES...
1-MAN, PEI, HATSU, SHA, 5-SOU, 7-SOU, 9-SOU, AND 9-PIN

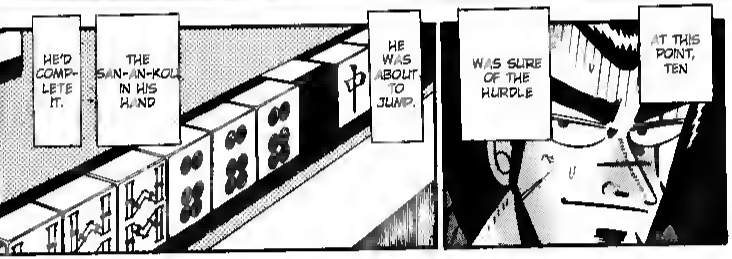
GOTCHA
I SEE
HMMM
ISN'T THAT GREAT
KEEPING THIS WAIT
THIS 3-SOU OR 6-SOU WAIT IS ON A MERE TWO TILES
SO
HE CAN'T DEAL IN
THOSE EIGHT TYPES
1-MAN, PEI, HATSU, SHA, 5-SOU, 7-SOU 9-SOU AND 9-PIN
THE TILES I HAVE ARE
I'M AIMING FOR CHII-TOI-TSU

LIKE THIS...
IF I DO THAT
HANG ON...
WHICH MEANS...

TO COMPLETE SAN-AN-KOU...!
THE ROAD TO TRAVEL
I'VE GOT IT...! THE PATH TO TAKE...!

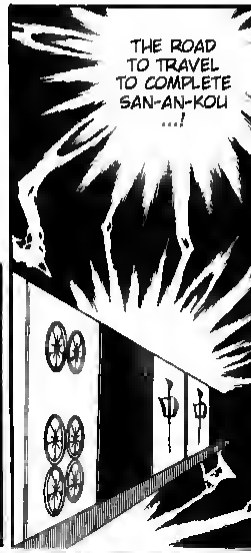
CHAPTER 91
A DANGEROUS PLACE


THE EAST-WEST BATTLE
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN


HE'D COMPLETE IT.
THE SAN-AN-KOU IN HIS HAND
HE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP.
WAS SURE OF THE HURDLE
AT THIS POINT, TEN

AT THIS POINT, TEN...
YES.
...THE PROBLEM IS WHAT TO PLAY NEXT...!

I'VE GOT THE PATH I NEED TO TAKE...!


THE ROAD TO TRAVEL TO COMPLETE SAN-AN-KOU...!

10TH TURN
EARLY IN THE OPENING ROUND, EAST 1ST

HAD THIS SHAPE
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS IN TENPAI ON A DOUBLE-SIDED WAIT FOR SAN-AN-KOU
ON THE 9TH TURN BEFORE THIS
TAKING HIM BACK TO II-SHAN-TEN
HE WENT AND DISCARDED THE 3-MAN
IT WAS A BAD WAIT AND
WITH TWO LEFT
FOR HIS 3-SOU OR 6-SOU WAIT ALREADY OUT
HE COULD SEE SIX OF THE TILES
THE REASON HE PLAYED LIKE THAT WAS

IN OTHER WORDS
IN FACT, THIS WAS A MAJOR FACTOR.
WAS THAT HE HAD 1-MAN AND 5-SOU IN HIS HAND.
WHAT HE SAID INSTEAD
DEALING IN WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
FURTHERMORE, THERE WASN'T A 3-SOU IN HIROYUKI'S HAND
AND DISCARDED 4-SOU
AND HE CALLED CHI!
IF HIRO PLAYED 1-MAN
EVEN THOUGH HE WENT BACK TO II-SHAN-TEN
WAITING ON 5-SOU.....!
HE'D BE IN THIS SHAPE .....
THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY, SAN-AN-KOU
THE KEY TO CLEAR MAHJONG
WOULD THEN
HIRO COULD DEAL IN WITH THE 5-SOU.
FOR THIS HAND
NEXT TURN

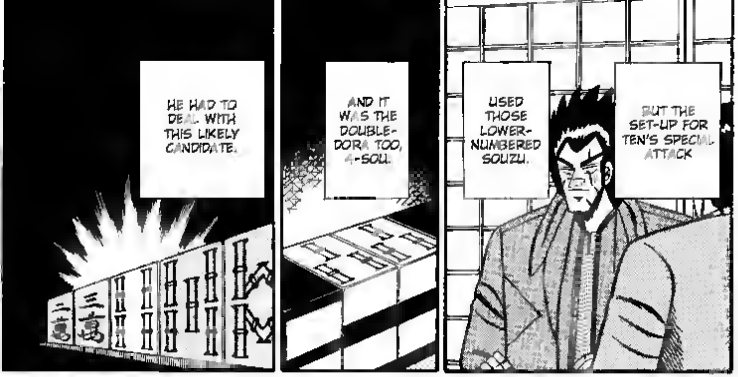
WOULD BE EASILY COMPLETED!
IN THIS EAST 1ST ROUND
THE GAME WAS RATHER LIKE
CHECK IN SHOGI
A POINT WHERE THE RESULT WAS ALREADY DECIDED

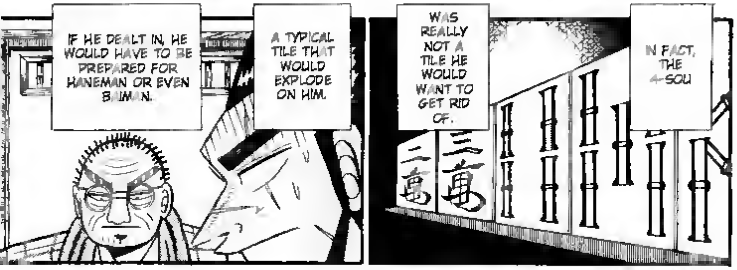
WITHIN TWO TURNS
AS LONG AS WEST DIDN'T FINISH A HAND
THAT RESULT WOULDN'T CHANGE
THIS WAS A GAME OF TEAM VERSUS TEAM.
A GAME WHERE THE FEAR WAS THAT PLAYERS WOULD BE "FREE TO DEAL IN"

THE SET-UP FOR A SPECIAL ATTACK .....!

A CERTAIN DIFFI-CULT SPOT
THAT HE NEEDED TO GET PAST
THERE WAS ONLY
NOT CHECK LIKE IN SHOGI, BUT CHECK IN A GAME OF MAHJONG.
IN BRIEF, IT WAS CHECK.
THAT DIFFICULT SPOT WAS
AND NOW IN THAT SITUATION

SOGA MITSUI ...!
YOU'D KNOW HE WAS WAITING ON LOWER-NUMBER SOUZU.
FROM LOOKING AT THE TILES HE HAD OPEN, TOO
OBVIOUS TO ANYONE
SOGA'S HAND WAS
A SOUZU ONE-SUIT HAND
THIS WAS ALSO OBVIOUS TO ANYONE.


HE HAD TO DEAL WITH THIS LIKELY CANDIDATE.
AND IT WAS THE DOUBLE-DORA TOO, 4-SOU.
USED THOSE LOWER-NUMBERED SOUZU.
BUT THE SET-UP FOR TEN'S SPECIAL ATTACK


IF HE DEALT IN, HE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR HANEMAN OR EVEN BAIMAN.
A TYPICAL TILE THAT WOULD EXPLODE ON HIM.
WAS REALLY NOT A TILE HE WOULD WANT TO GET RID OF.
IN FACT, THE 4-SOU

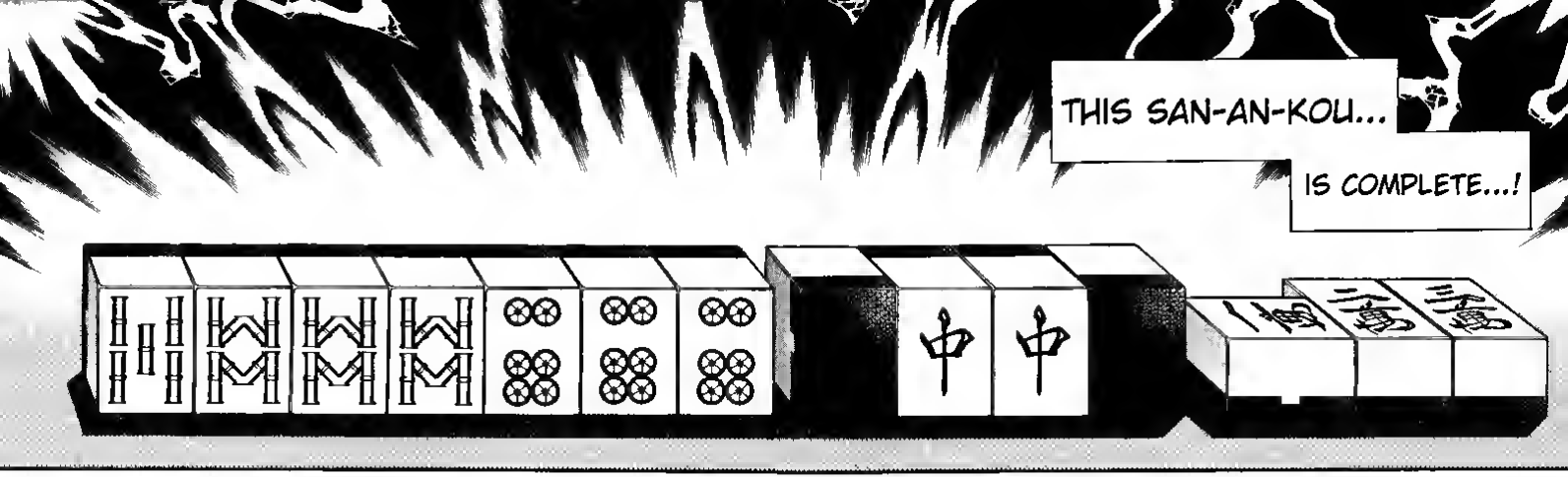
IT COULD BE A HUGE BLUNDER RIGHT AT THE START
BUT KNOWING THAT ...
BUT... .....
A HUGE RISK...
ALL I CAN DO IS GO THROUGH WITH IT ...!
DESPITE THAT

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS GO THROUGH WITH IT...!
カミツ..
CHII ...!
THE RISK OF A BAIMAN IS HUGE, BUT
WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPLETING SAN-AN-KOU
WINS OUT ...!

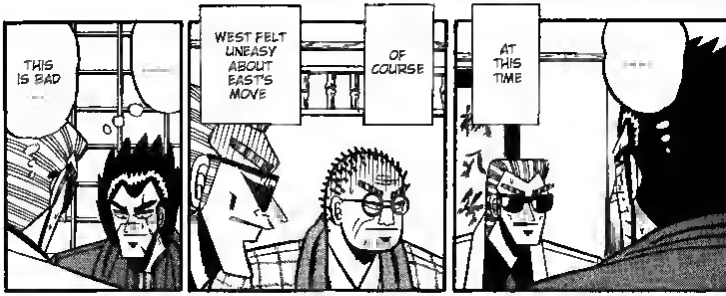
IF YOU DON'T STICK OUT YOUR HAND
ALL THE WAY
EVEN IF YOU'RE SCARED
IN THE PITCH-BLACK DARKNESS OF THE GAME
RISK AND RETURN ARE EVEN.
IN THE END ...
YOU WON'T TOUCH THE FINGERS OF THE GODDESS THAT CONTROLS "THE GAME."
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH IT.
PASS ...!
PLAY STRONGLY ...!
IN THE GAME HERE...
YOU WON'T ENTER THE WINNING FLOW.

PASS
...!
ざわ・・・

ざわざわ…
ざわ…
IT PASSED!
ALL I NEED IS FOR HIROYUKI TO DEAL IN ON PURPOSE TO THE 5-SOU SINGLE-WAIT NEXT TURN.
NOW IT SHOULD BE 99% CERTAIN
I WON THAT GAMBLE...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
IT'S SET
WEST CAN'T ATAMA-HANE.
HIRO'S TURN IS RIGHT BEFORE MINE...


THIS SAN-AN-KOU...
IS COMPLETE...!

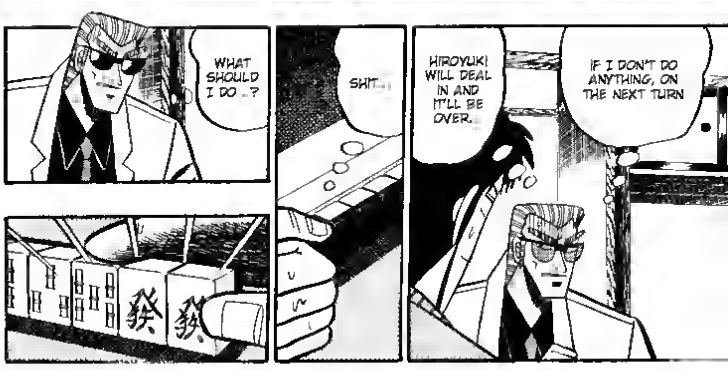
IT WON'T BE A YAKU WITH A HUGH NUMBER OF POINTS...
IF THAT'S THE CASE
IN OTHER WORDS DEALING IN ON PURPOSE
HE'S GOT SOME GUARANTEE HE'LL WIN...
PROB-ABLY
OR MAYBE NOT...

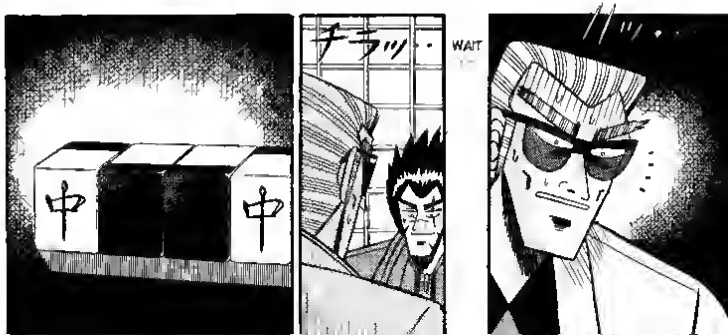

THIS IS BAD
WEST FELT UNEASY ABOUT EAST'S MOVE
OF COURSE
AT THIS TIME

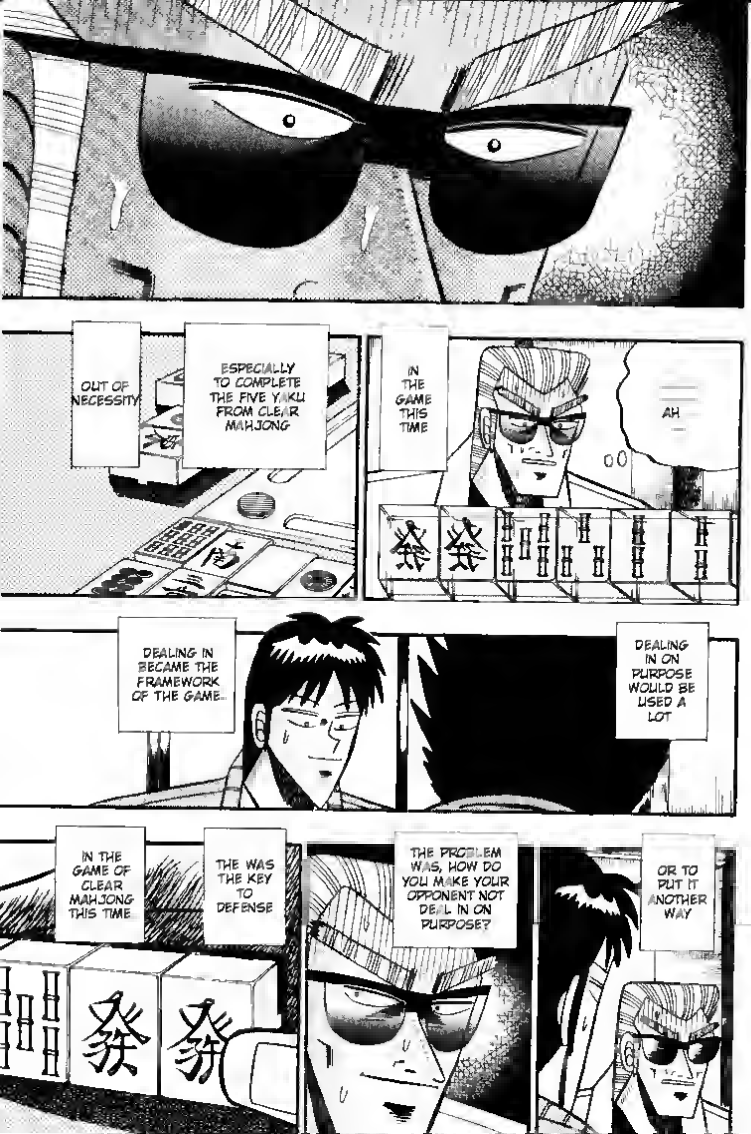
IT'S PROBABLY
IT'S NOT CHANTA OR SAN-SHOKU.
AND WHEN HE'S GAMBLING ON A DISCARD OF THE DOUBLE-DORA ON TOP OF THAT
FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE YAKU FOR CLEAR MAHJONG.

HE MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF HUGE HAND.....
WHEN HE SHOULDN'T WANT TO GO UP AGAINST THAT.
HE DROPPED THE DOUBLE-DORA
AGAINST SOGA'S CHIN-ITSU
WITH ONLY CHUN

SAN-AN-KOU...!?


WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
SHIT...
HIROYUKI WILL DEAL IN AND IT'LL BE OVER.
IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, ON THE NEXT TURN

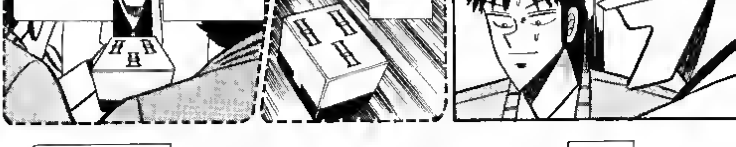

チラッ・・
WAIT

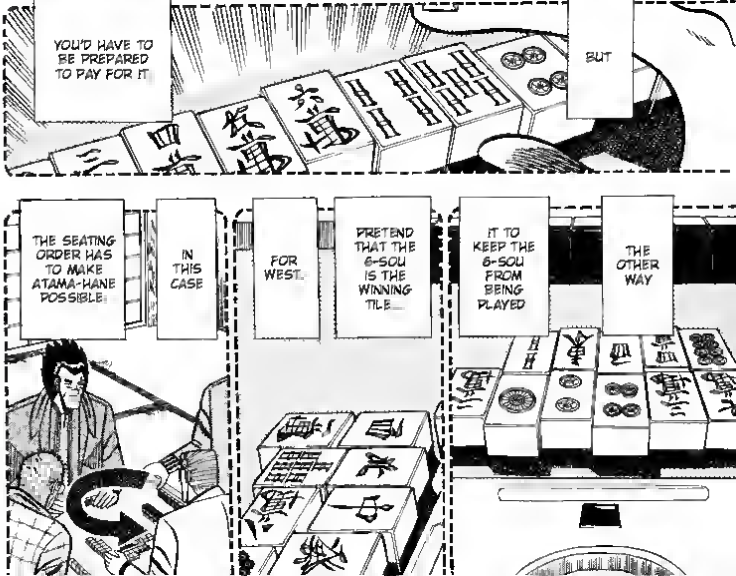

OUT OF NECESSITY
ESPECIALLY TO COMPLETE THE FIVE YAKU FROM CLEAR MAHJONG
IN THE GAME THIS TIME
AH...
DEALING IN BECAME THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GAME...
DEALING IN ON PURPOSE WOULD BE USED A LOT
IN THE GAME OF CLEAR MAHJONG THIS TIME
THE WAS THE KEY TO DEFENSE
THE PROBLEM WAS, HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR OPPONENT NOT DEAL IN ON PURPOSE?
OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY

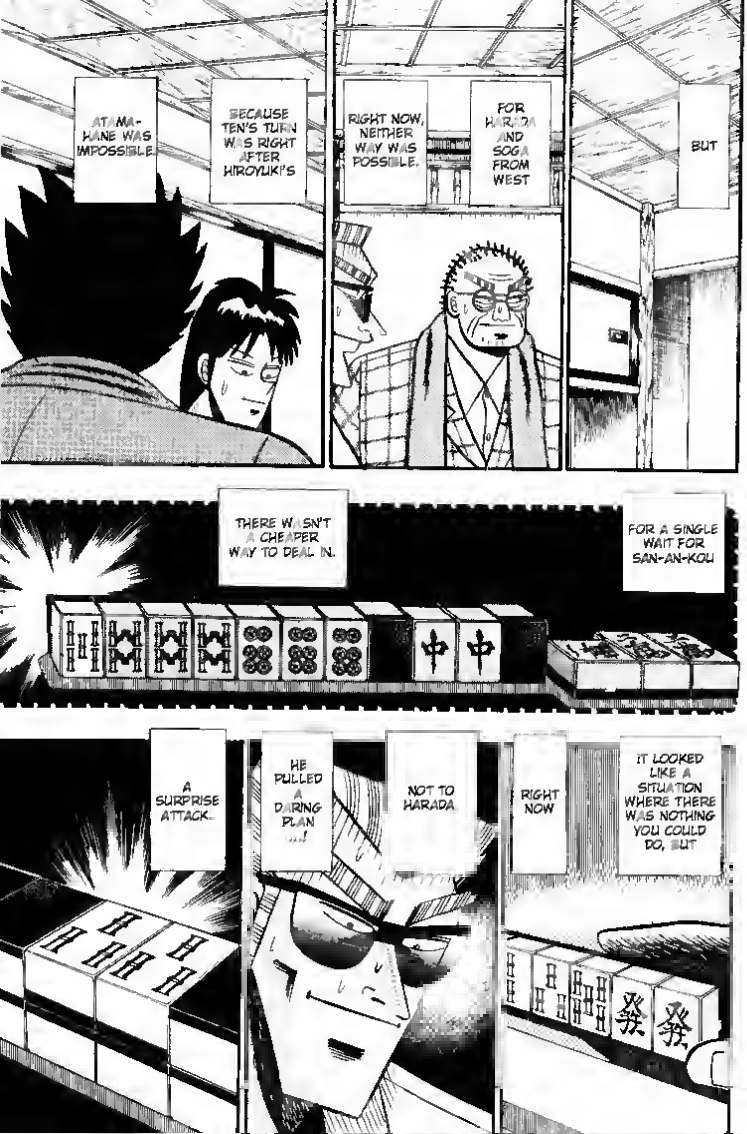
IF A PERSON WILL BE GIVEN THE 6-SOU FOR ONE OF THE CLEAR MAHJONG HANDS, SAN-SHOKU
FOR INSTANCE

THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM DEALING IN ON PURPOSE, BUT
THERE ARE TWO THAT COME TO MIND RIGHT AWAY...

NEUTRALIZING THE DEALING IN OF THE 6-SOU
PLAY THE OTHER WINNING TILE THE 3-SOU
IN THE SAME TURN


YOU'D HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR IT
BUT


THE SEATING ORDER HAS TO MAKE ATAMA-HANE POSSIBLE
IN THIS CASE
FOR WEST...
PRETEND THAT THE 6-SOU IS THE WINNING TILE...
IT TO KEEP THE 6-SOU FROM BEING PLAYED
THE OTHER WAY


ATAMA-HANE WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
BECAUSE TEN'S TURN WAS RIGHT AFTER HIROYUKI'S
RIGHT NOW, NEITHER WAY WAS POSSIBLE.
FOR HARADA AND SOGA FROM WEST
BUT
THERE WASN'T A CHEAPER WAY TO DEAL IN.
FOR A SINGLE WAIT FOR SAN-AN-KOU
A SURPRISE ATTACK..
HE PULLED A DARING PLAN ...!
NOT TO HARADA
RIGHT NOW
IT LOOKED LIKE A SITUATION WHERE THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO, BUT

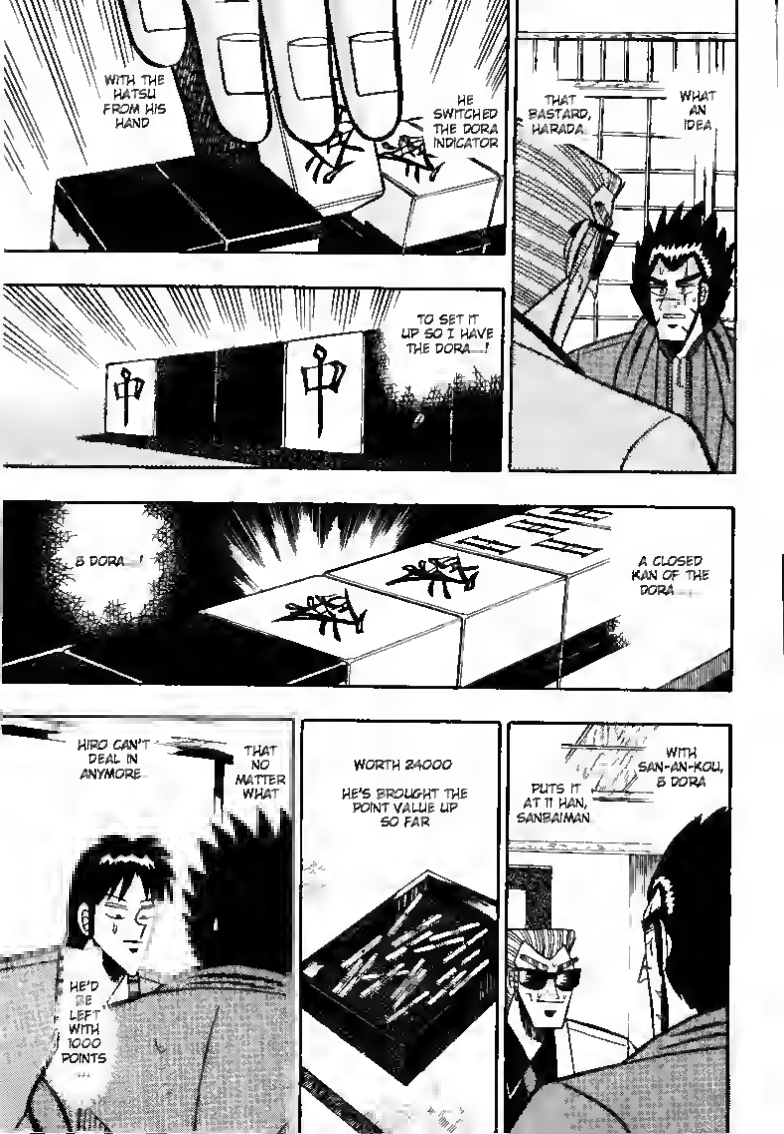
A MIRACULOUS PLAN...!

AS HARADA ASKED
YEAH?
...SOGA...

FIRST, SOGA CALLED KAN...!
KAN...!

HUH ..?
THE NEW DORA INDIC-ATOR
カーチャッ..
ケニッ..
AH...
AGAIN, A NEW DORA INDICATOR
KAN ...!
カミ..

GH.
WE'VE BEEN HAD .....!


WITH THE HATSU FROM HIS HAND
HE SWITCHED THE DORA INDICATOR
THAT BASTARD, HARADA...
WHAT AN IDEA
TO SET IT UP SO I HAVE THE DORA...!
8 DORA...!
A CLOSED KAN OF THE DORA...
HIRO CAN'T DEAL IN ANYMORE...
THAT NO MATTER WHAT
HE'D BE LEFT WITH 1000 POINTS...
WORTH 24000
HE'S BROUGHT THE POINT VALUE UP SO FAR
WITH SAN-AN-KOU, 8 DORA
PUTS IT AT 11 HAN, SANBAIMAN

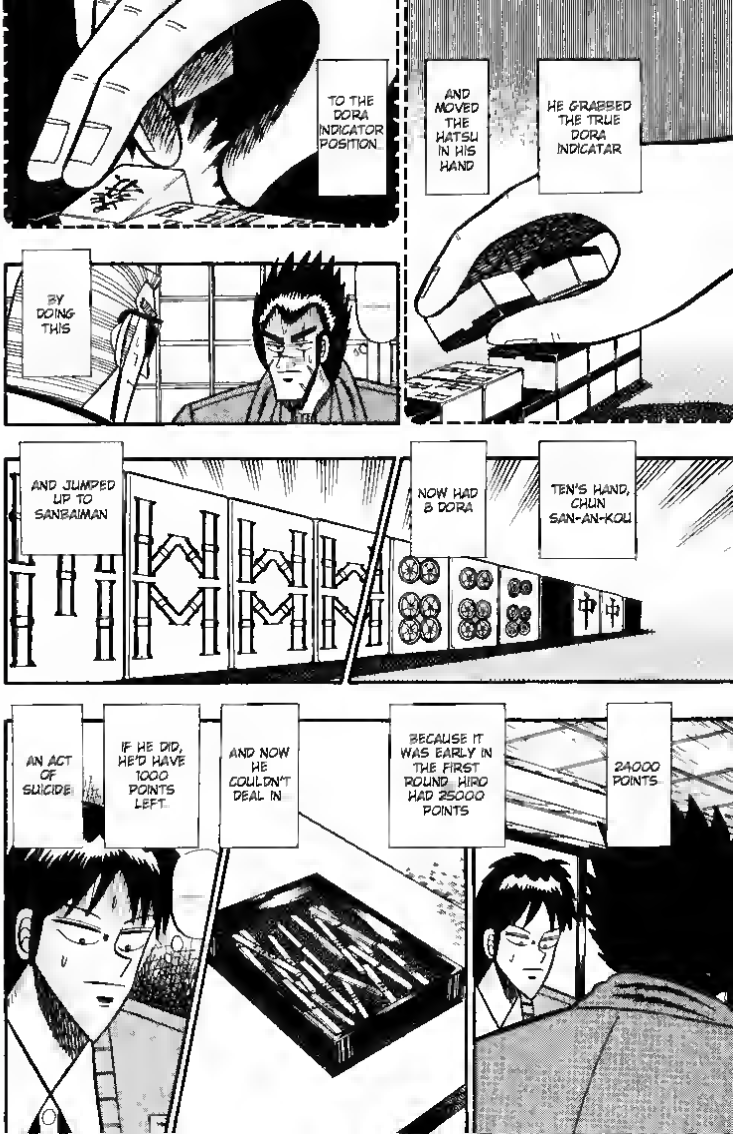
HE'S A TERRIFYING GUY
PLAYING TO FORCE OTHERS TO SUBMIT...!
WITH AN IRON ARM, HE PUTS ON THE PRESSURE ...!
AGAINST A FUTURE THAT WAS 99% CERTAIN
BY FORCE
HE TURNED IT AWAY

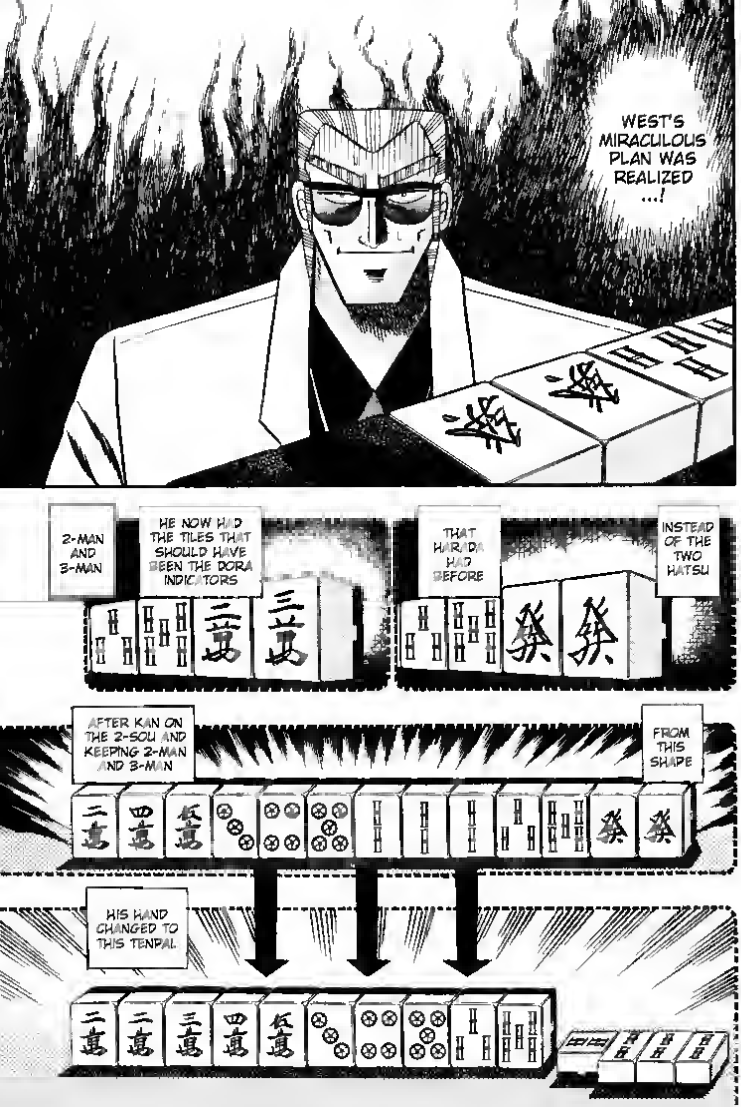
SAN-AN-KOU ...
THE KEY TO COMPLETION OF CLEAR MAHJONG
CHAPTER 92: DECLARATION OF WILL
JUST AN INCH BEFORE THAT
WHILE HE WAS MANAGING THIS
ONE STEP FROM COMPLETING THIS SAN-AN-KOU
TEN WAS
WAS ABLE TO PUT A STOP TO IT—!
THROUGH A MIRACU-LOUS PLAN
THE STRONG-ARMED HARADA FROM WEST

CHAPTER 92
DECLARATION OF WILL

THE FINAL TILE TO COMPLETE TEN'S SAN-AN-KOU
TO AVOID HIRO DEALING IN ON PURPOSE
BUT THIS TIME, HARADA DID THE OPPOSITE
WITH THE HATSU IN HIS HAND
HE SWITCHED THEM
WHEN HE FLIPPED THE DORA INDICATORS
BETWEEN SOGA'S AND HIS OWN KAN
INSTEAD, HE GAVE TEN THE DORA

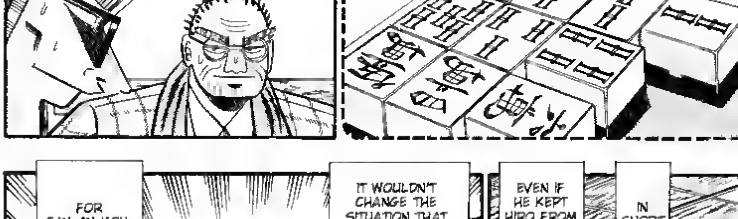
IN THE CASE OF A PLAN INVOLVING THE DORA
USUALLY
ざわ…
ざわ…
WOULD BE IN YOUR OWN HAND
SO THAT THE DORA
IT WOULD BE SET UP


TO THE DORA INDICATOR POSITION.
AND MOVED THE HATSU IN HIS HAND
HE GRABBED THE TRUE DORA INDICATAR
BY DOING THIS
AND JUMPED UP TO SANBAIMAN
NOW HAD 8 DORA
TEN'S HAND, CHUN SAN-AN-KOU
AN ACT OF SUICIDE.
IF HE DID, HE'D HAVE 1000 POINTS LEFT.
AND NOW HE COULDN'T DEAL IN.
BECAUSE IT WAS EARLY IN THE FIRST ROUND. HIRO HAD 25000 POINTS
24000 POINTS

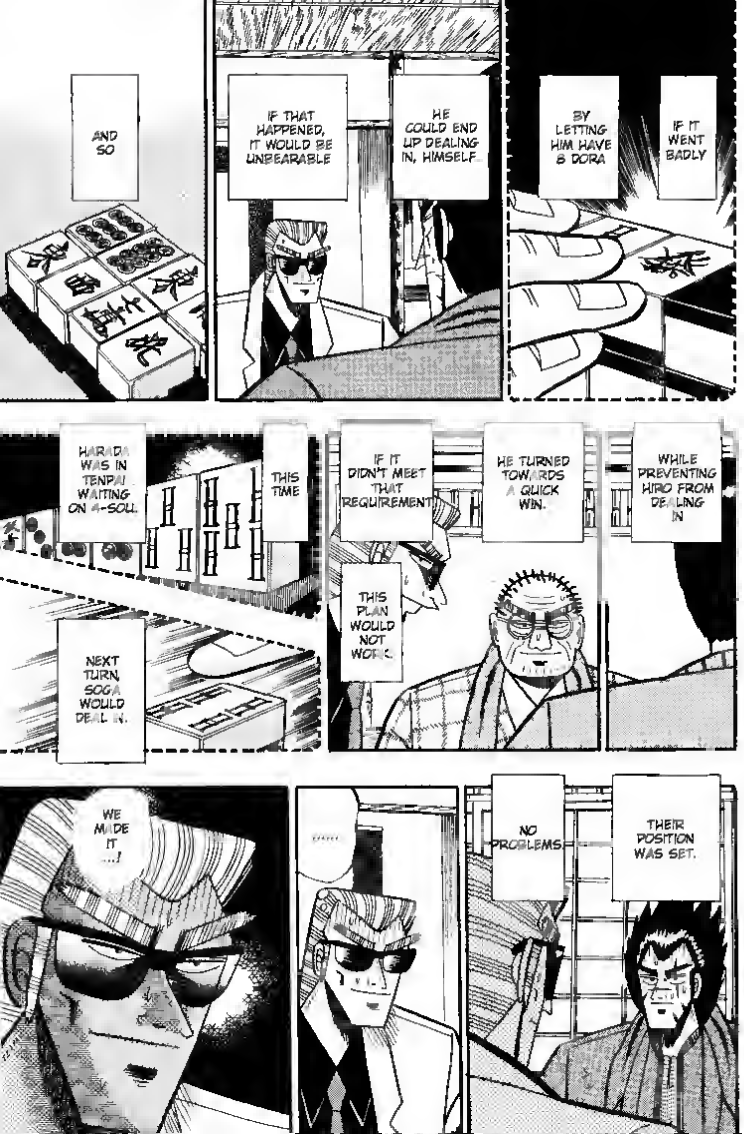

WEST'S MIRACULOUS PLAN WAS REALIZED ...!
2-MAN AND 3-MAN
HE NOW HAD THE TILES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE DORA INDICATORS
THAT HAKUDA HAD BEFORE
INSTEAD OF THE TWO HATSU
AFTER KAN ON THE 2-SOU AND KEEPING 2-MAN AND 3-MAN
FROM THIS SHAPE
HIS HAND CHANGED TO THIS TENPAI.

4-SOU AND 6-MAN IN SOGA'S HAND
THERE WERE
HE HADN'T GOTTEN USEFUL TILES FROM THE WALL
BUT EVEN IF
CHANGE WAS THE BEST FOR HIM.
THIS BLESSED

TO SET UP HIS MIRACLOUS PLAN
IF THIS MUCH HADN'T BEEN FIRMLY GUARANTEED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD
UP UNTIL TENPAI.
SO HE HAD BEEN GUARANTEED SUPPORT FROM SOGA

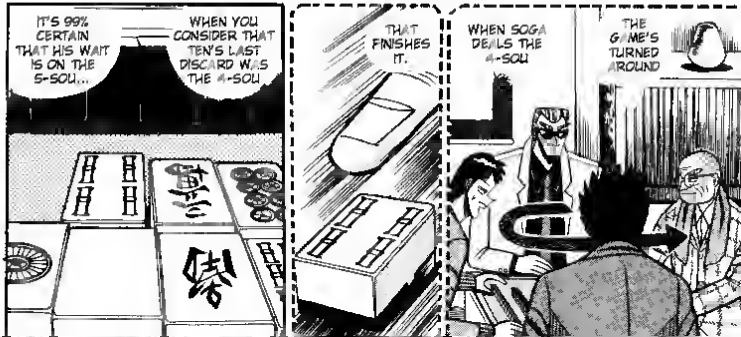

FOR SAN-AN-KOU
IT WOULDN'T CHANGE THE SITUATION THAT TEN WAS IN A SINGLE WAIT
EVEN IF HE KEPT HIRO FROM DEALING IN
IN SHORT

HE WOULD SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT SINGLE WAIT.
TO MAKE A GUESS AT TEN'S TENPAI.
IN ONE TURN, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE!

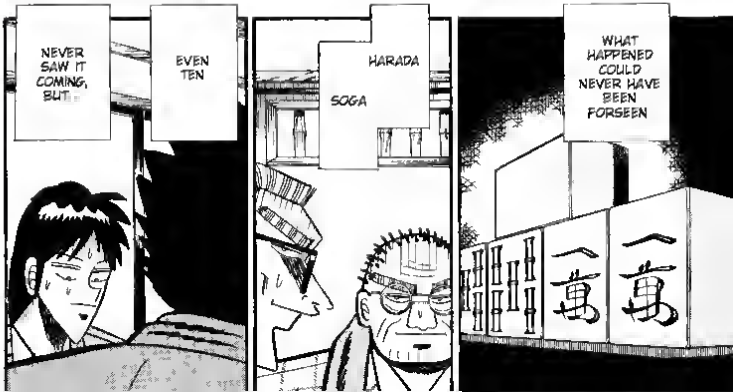

AND SO
IF THAT HAPPENED, IT WOULD BE UNBEARABLE
HE COULD END UP DEALING IN, HIMSELF.
BY LETTING HIM HAVE 8 DORA
IF IT WENT BADLY
HARADA WAS IN TENPAI WAITING ON 4-SOU.
THIS TIME
NEXT TURN, SOGA WOULD DEAL IN.
IF IT DIDN'T MEET THAT REQUIREMENT
HE TURNED TOWARDS A QUICK WIN.
WHILE PREVENTING HIRO FROM DEALING IN
THIS PLAN WOULD NOT WORK.
WE MADE IT ...!
.....
NO PROBLEMS
THEIR POSITION WAS SET.

CAME TO EAST EARLY IN THE FIRST ROUND...!
A HIGH WAVE OF LUCK

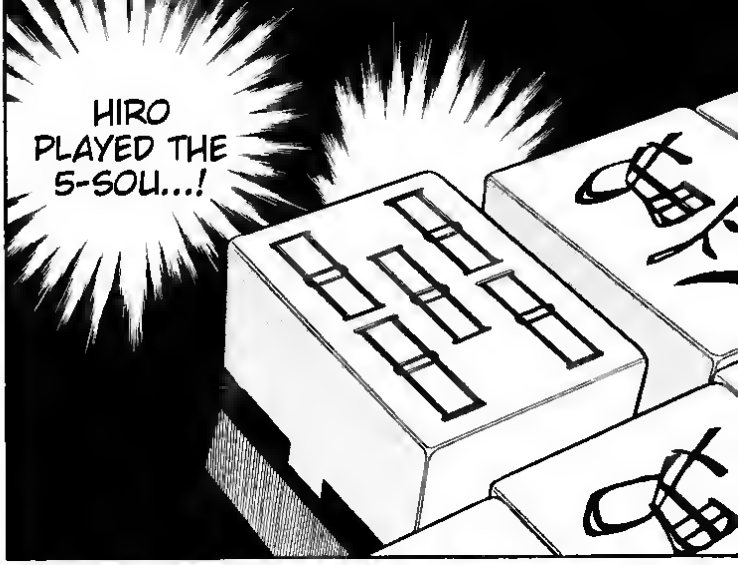
HAS BEEN TOTALLY AVOIDED...
THAT LONG-SHOT AT SAN-KAN-KOU

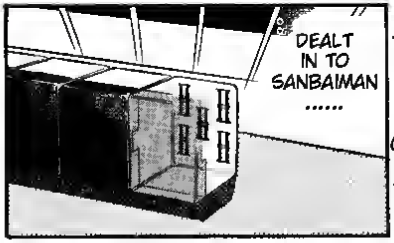

IT'S 99% CERTAIN THAT HIS WAIT IS ON THE 5-SOU...
WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT TEN'S LAST DISCARD WAS THE 4-SOU
THAT FINISHES IT.
WHEN SOGA DEALS THE 4-SOU
THE GAME'S TURNED AROUND

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
IF IT'S SAN-AN-KOU, HE'S WAITING ON A SINGLE 5-SOU.
A SINGLE WAIT ON THOSE ISN'T POSSIBLE
WE KNOW WHERE THREE OR MORE OF ALL OF THEM ARE
THERE ARE THE POSSIBILITIES IN THE AREA, 4-SOU, 2-SOU, 3-SOU, OR 6-SOU
AND WHEN I WIN THAT TAKES CARE OF IT...!
NEXT TURN, SOGA WILL PLAY THE 4-SOU
TO SOMETHING DIFFERENT, BUT
WILL CHANGE
WHATEVER IT MAY CHANGE TO
THAT IN ONE TURN, THAT SINGLE WAIT
WHAT I'M AFRAID OF
BUT...
NO PROBLEM AT ALL

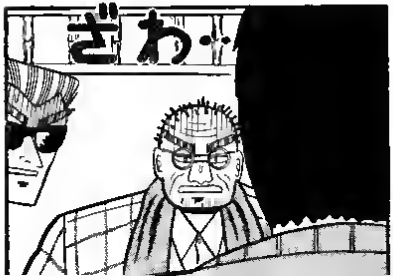

NEVER SAW IT COMING, BUT...
EVEN TEN
HARADA
SOGA
WHAT HAPPENED COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FORSEEN
一萬
一萬

HUH ...?
URGH...!


HIRO PLAYED THE 5-SOU...!


DEALT IN TO SANBAIMAN .....

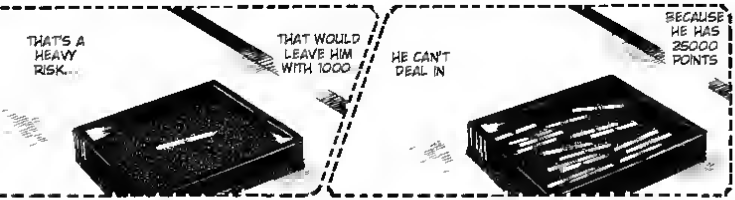
TO TEN'S SAN-AN-KOU, CHUN, 8 DORA .....
HE DEALT IN ON PURPOSE ...!


ざわ・・

ざわ
ざわ…
RECKLESS
OUTRAGEOUS
THAT'S CRAZY!
WHAT IF
THIS DEALING IN.
TEN CAN'T ACCEPT
BUT
A SIMPLE FARCE... BUT...
THEN DEALING IN ISN'T WORTH SHIT.
AND IF HE CAN'T

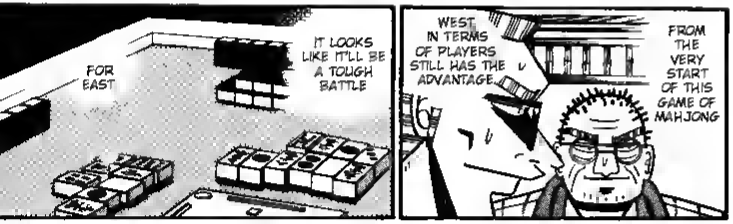
THE SIGNAL TO DEAL IN.
I SENT TO HIRO
WHEN THE CHANCE AT SAN-AN-KOU CAME
ON THE 9TH TURN
IT'S TRUE THAT

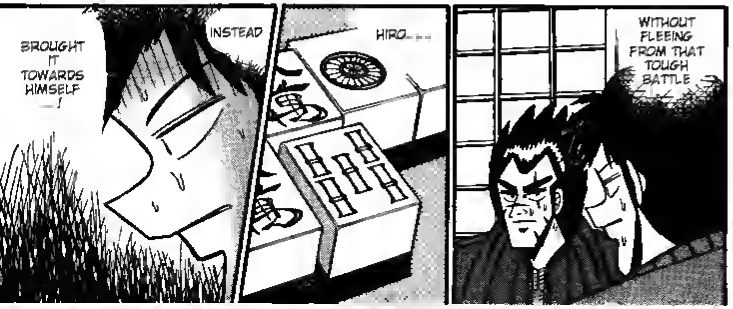
THAT STRATEGY WAS LOST...
AT THE POINT WHEN MY HAND BECAME SANBAIMAN
BUT WHEN THE CHUN BECAME THE DORA
中
中

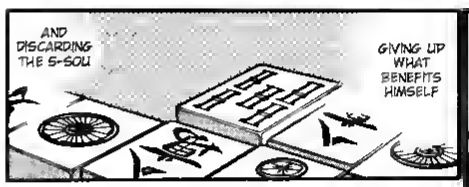

THAT'S A HEAVY RISK...
THAT WOULD LEAVE HIM WITH 1000
HE CAN'T DEAL IN
BECAUSE HE HAS 25000 POINTS

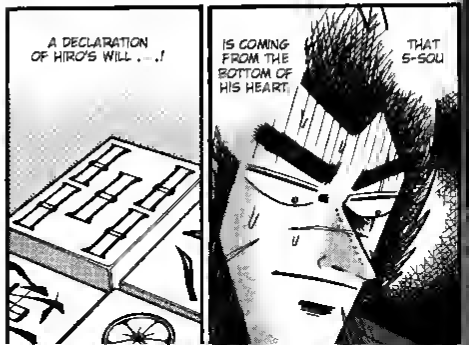
ALREADY KNOWS THAT
HIRO...
THAT DOESN'T NEED EXPLAINING
WITH THAT DANGER LOOMING
I DON'T HAVE TO COMPLETE THE SAN-AN-KOU RIGHT NOW...
中
中

BUT ...


FOR EAST
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE A TOUGH BATTLE
WEST IN TERMS OF PLAYERS STILL HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
FROM THE VERY START OF THIS GAME OF MAHJONG


BROUGHT IT TOWARDS HIMSELF...!
INSTEAD
HIRO...
WITHOUT FLEEING FROM THAT TOUGH BATTLE

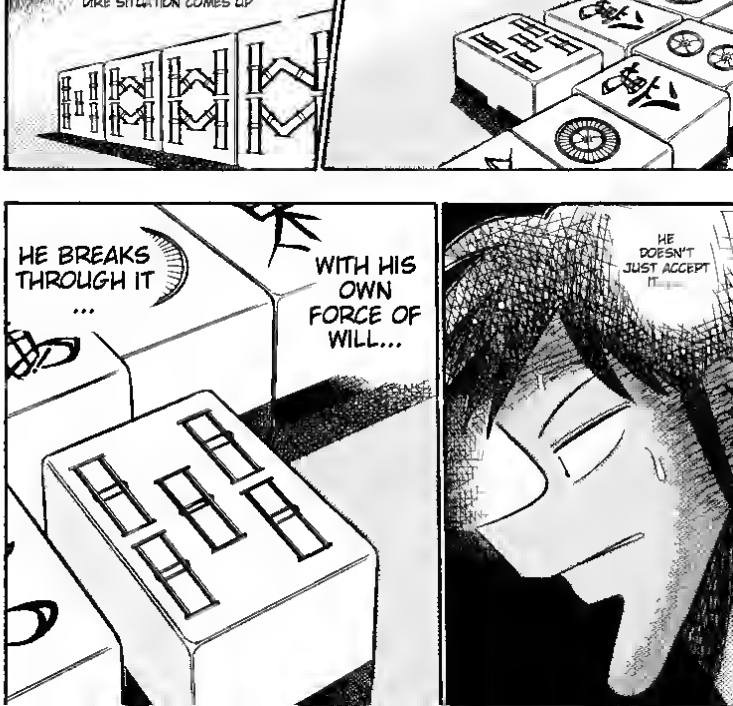

AND DISCARDING THE 5-SOU
GIVING UP WHAT BENEFITS HIMSELF

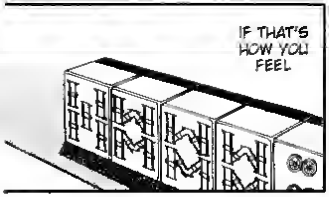

A DECLARATION OF HIRO'S WILL...!
IS COMING FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.
THAT 5-SOU

THE THING IS
IT DOESN'T HAVE THAT DIMENSION ANY MORE.

AND MOVING FORWARD
TAKING IT ON, NO MATTER WHAT THE RISK

EVEN WHEN AN OVERWHELMINGLY DIRE SITUATION COMES UP
OUTRAGEOUS TO AN OUTSIDER.
IT LOOKS


HE BREAKS THROUGH IT ...
WITH HIS OWN FORCE OF WILL...
HE DOESN'T JUST ACCEPT IT...


IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL

I SEE

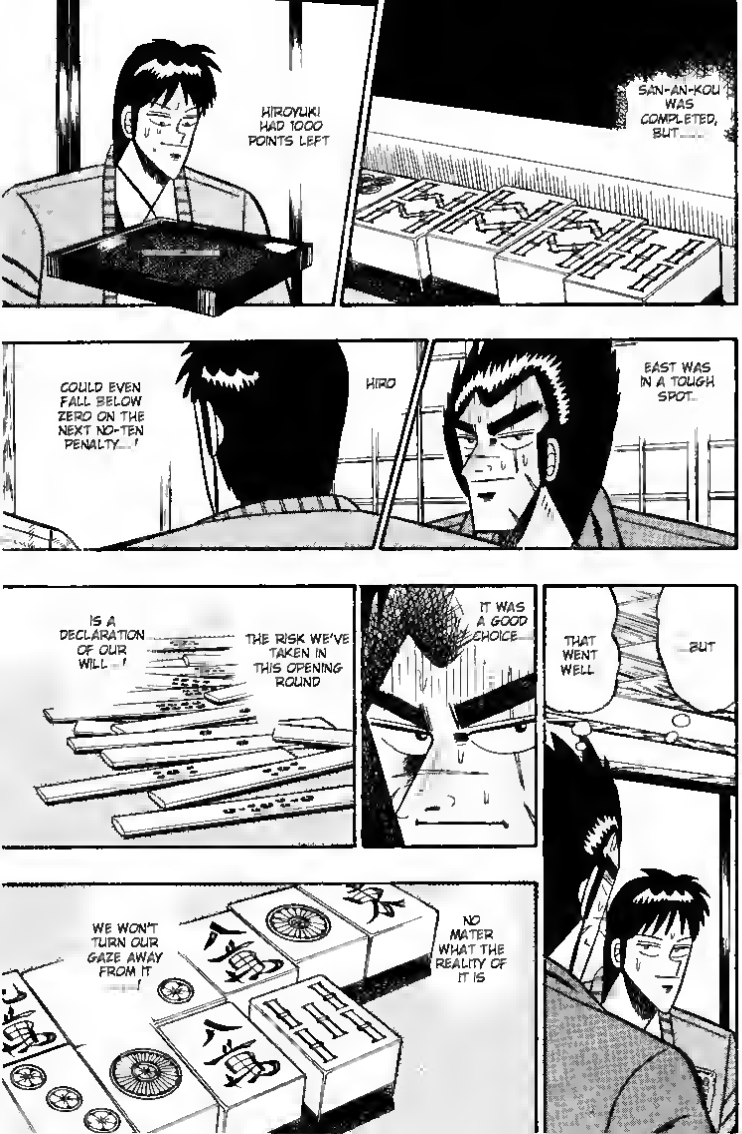
HEH HEH...

RON...!

THAT OUTRAGEOUS MOVE
I'LL TAKE IT...!
SURE .....

ハラッ…!!
.....
.....
WHA...
ガタッ
WHAAAT...!?
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..

SANBAIMAN
...
24000
POINTS
...!


HIROYUKI HAD 7000 POINTS LEFT
SAN-AN-KOU WAS COMPLETED, BUT.....
COULD EVEN FALL BELOW ZERO ON THE NEXT NO-TEN PENALTY.....!
HIRO
EAST WAS IN A TOUGH SPOT...
IS A DECLARATION OF OUR WILL.....!
THE RISK WE'VE TAKEN IN THIS OPENING ROUND
IT WAS A GOOD CHOICE...
THAT WENT WELL
...BUT
WE WON'T TURN OUR GAZE AWAY FROM IT.....!
NO MATER WHAT THE REALITY OF IT IS

BREAKING NEW GROUND .....!
MOVING FORWARD WHILE EMBRACING DIFFICULTY...